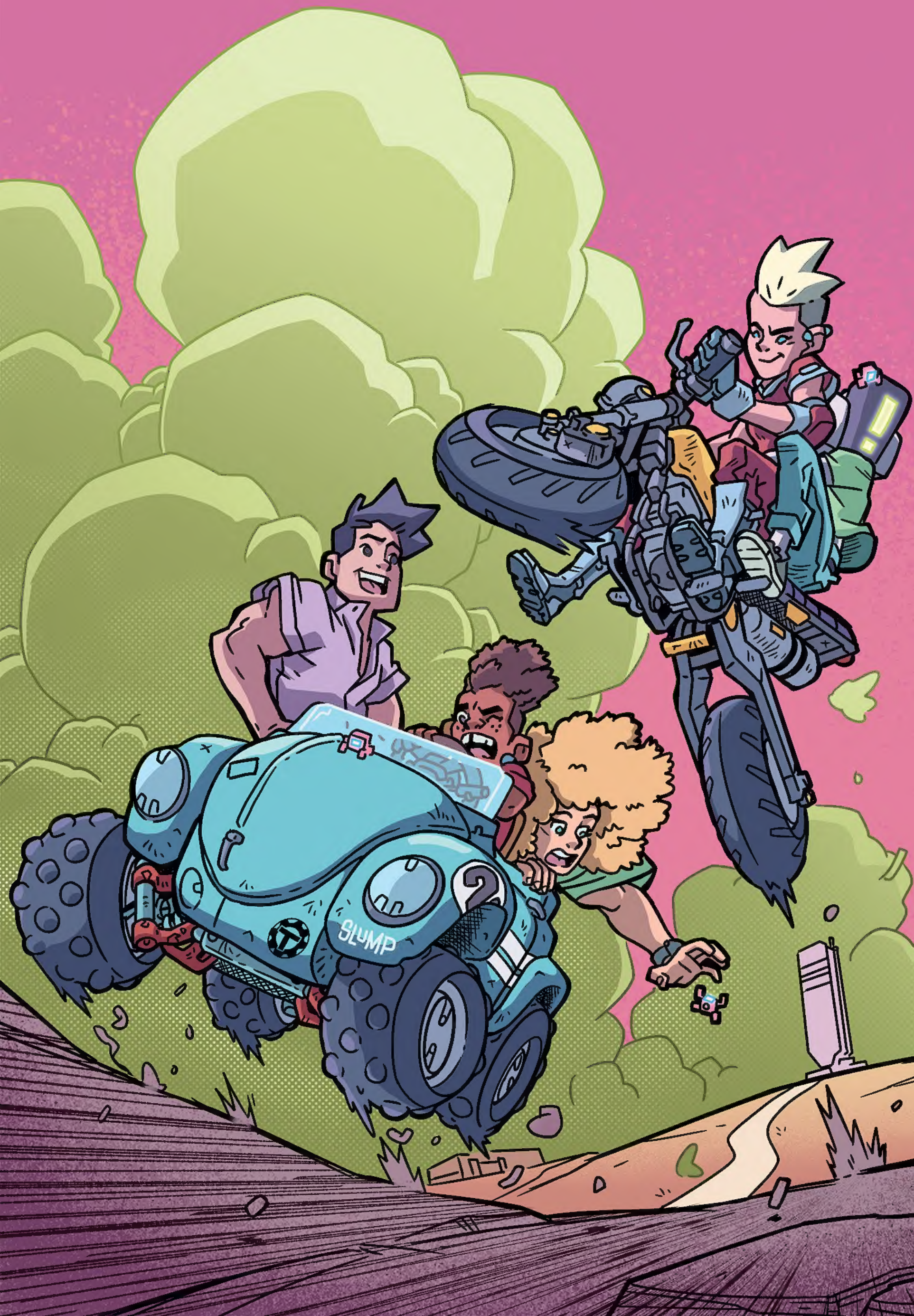
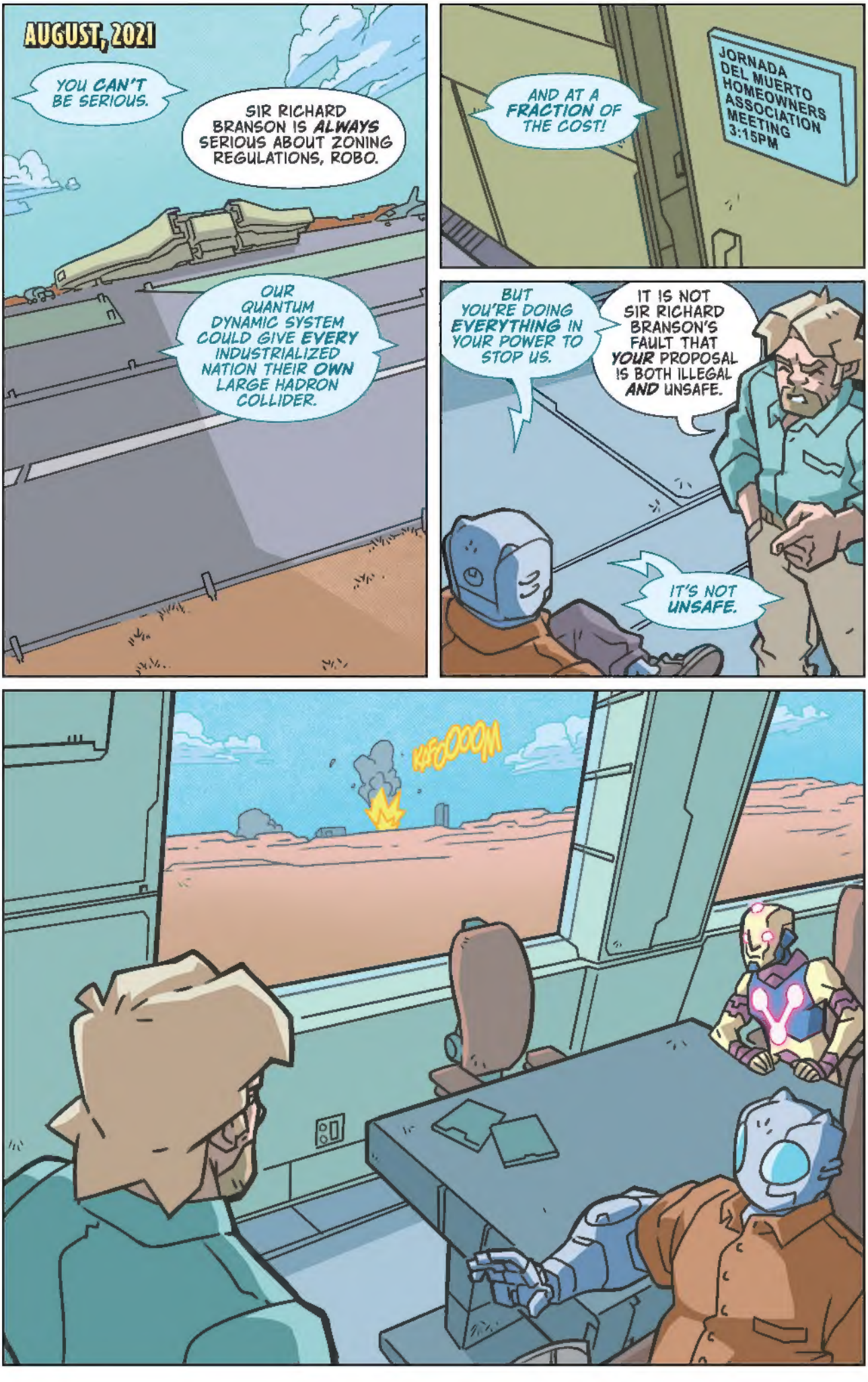
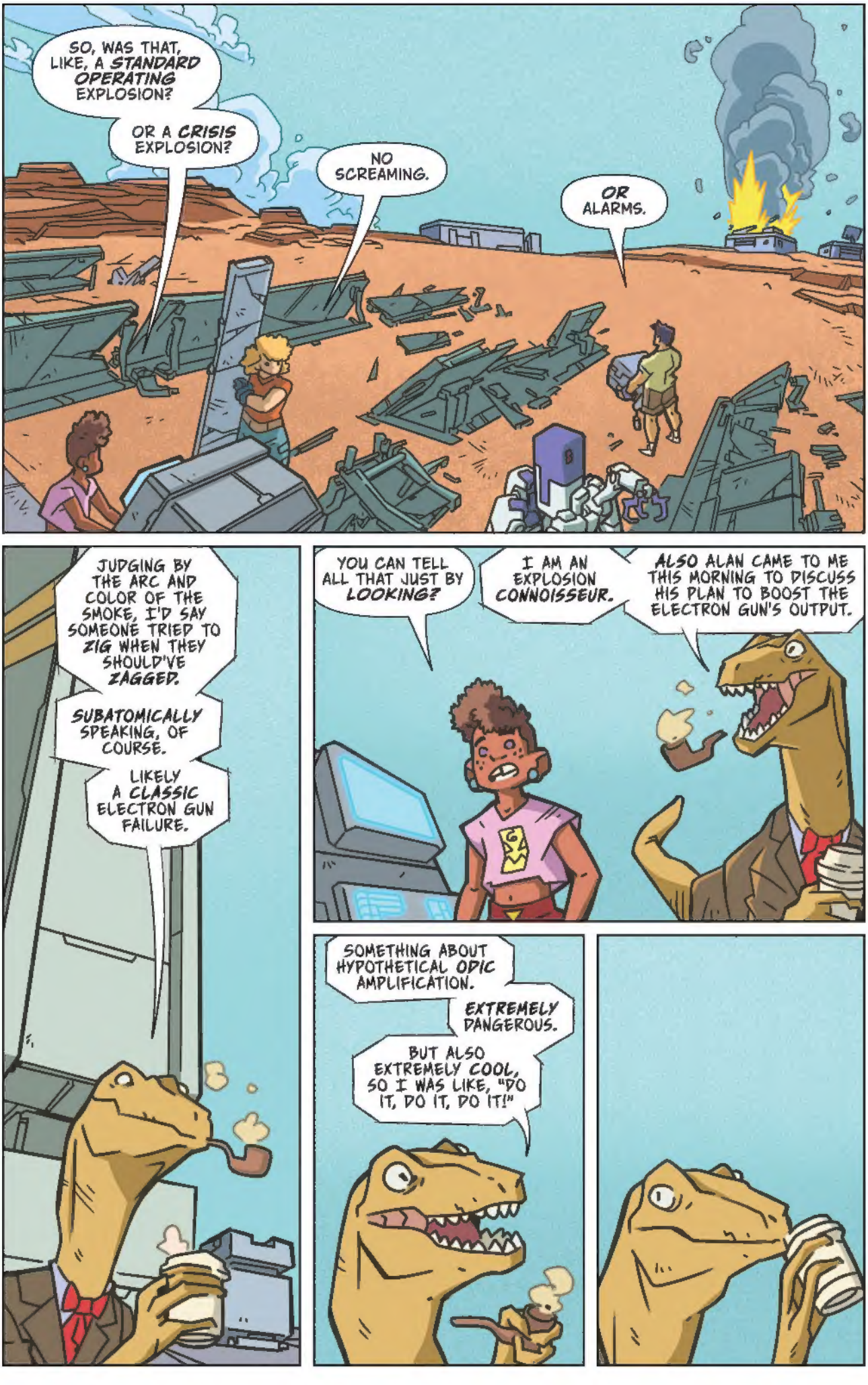

SLUMP


AUGUST, 2021
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
SIR RICHARD BRANSON IS ALWAYS SERIOUS ABOUT ZONING REGULATIONS, ROBO.
OUR QUANTUM DYNAMIC SYSTEM COULD GIVE EVERY INDUSTRIALIZED NATION THEIR OWN LARGE HADRON COLLIDER.
AND AT A FRACTION OF THE COST!
JORNADA DEL MUERTO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEETING 3:15PM
BUT YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO STOP US.
IT IS NOT SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S FAULT THAT YOUR PROPOSAL IS BOTH ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE.
IT'S NOT UNSAFE.
KAFOOOOM


SO, WAS THAT, LIKE, A STANDARD OPERATING EXPLOSION?
OR A CRISIS EXPLOSION?
NO SCREAMING.
OR ALARMS.
JUDGING BY THE ARC AND COLOR OF THE SMOKE, I'D SAY SOMEONE TRIED TO ZIG WHEN THEY SHOULD'VE ZAGGED.
SUBATOMICALLY SPEAKING, OF COURSE.
LIKELY A CLASSIC ELECTRON GUN FAILURE.
YOU CAN TELL ALL THAT JUST BY LOOKING?
I AM AN EXPLOSION CONNOISSEUR.
ALSO ALAN CAME TO ME THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS HIS PLAN TO BOOST THE ELECTRON GUN'S OUTPUT.
SOMETHING ABOUT HYPOTHETICAL ODIC AMPLIFICATION.
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
BUT ALSO EXTREMELY COOL, SO I WAS LIKE, "DO IT, DO IT, DO IT!"

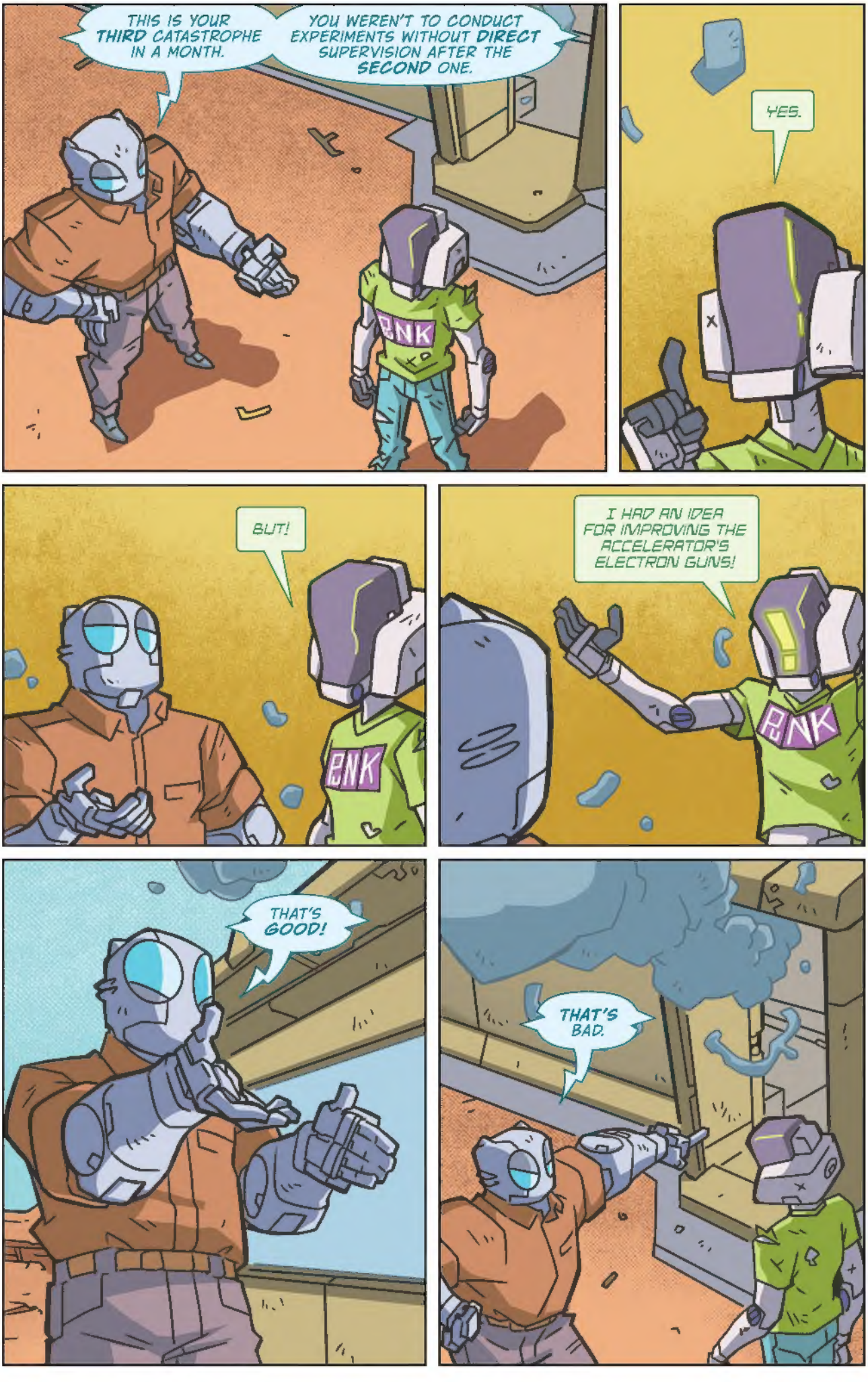
FIRST OF ALL, THAT COULD BE AN UNRELATED EXPLOSION.
SECONDLY, WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.
WEEELLLL...

ONE MINUTE LATER...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BACK ME UP.
THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MY PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE.
HE'S THE ONE WHO FOUGHT TO KEEP YOUR PEOPLE FROM MOVING INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD VOLCANO!
AND WHILE MY PEOPLE CALL JORNADA DEL MUERTO HOME I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH NUCLEAR REGULATION

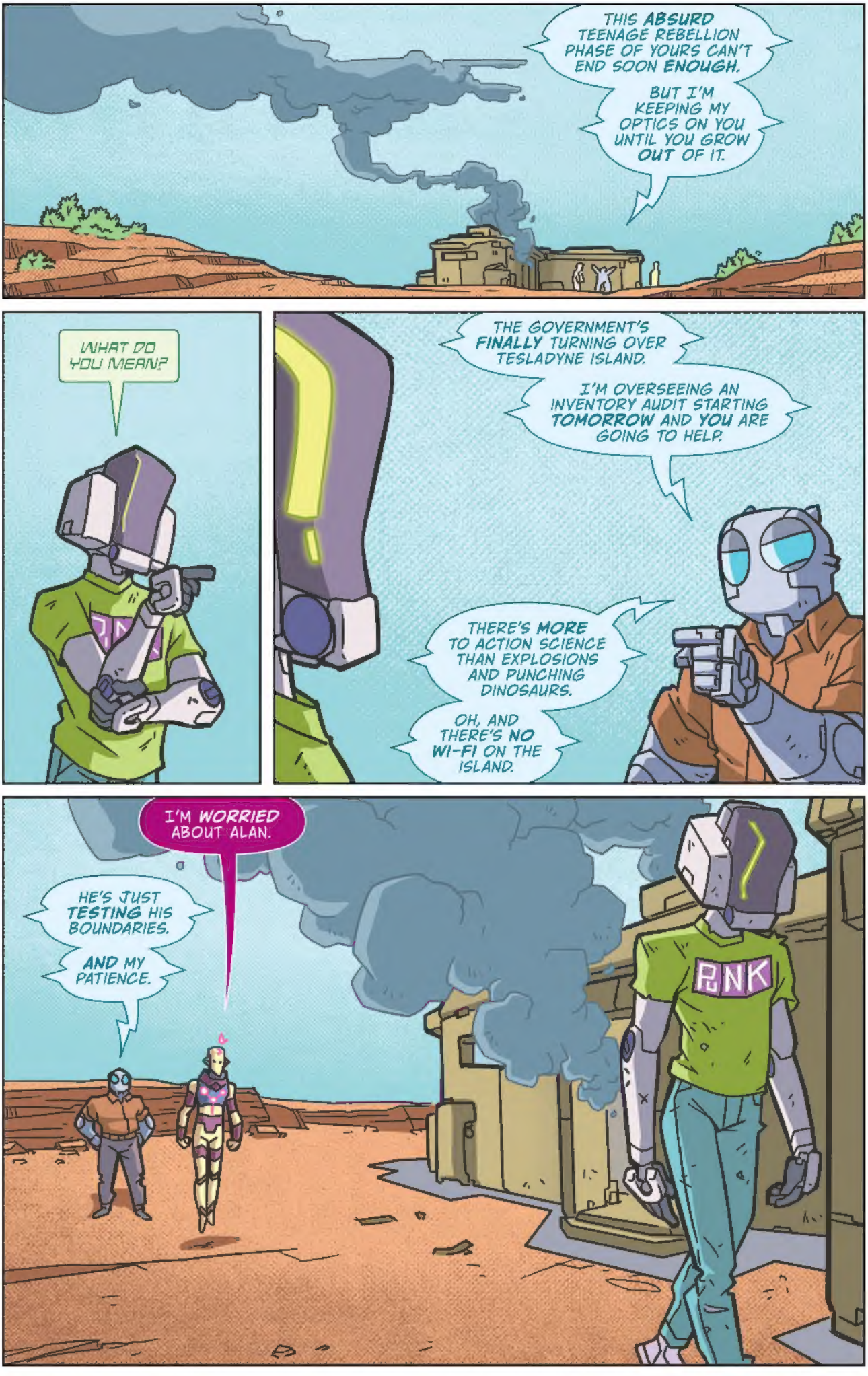
HE'S A SCUMBAG BILLIONAIRE, BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THE ROCKET FUEL WE STOLE.
YOU STOLE.

BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WRECKED HIS BILLION DOLLAR SPACEPLANE.
TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM CYBORG DOPPELGÄNGERS!
YOU ALSO ALMOST GOT THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD NUKED.
OKAY, YEAH. THAT'S FAIR.

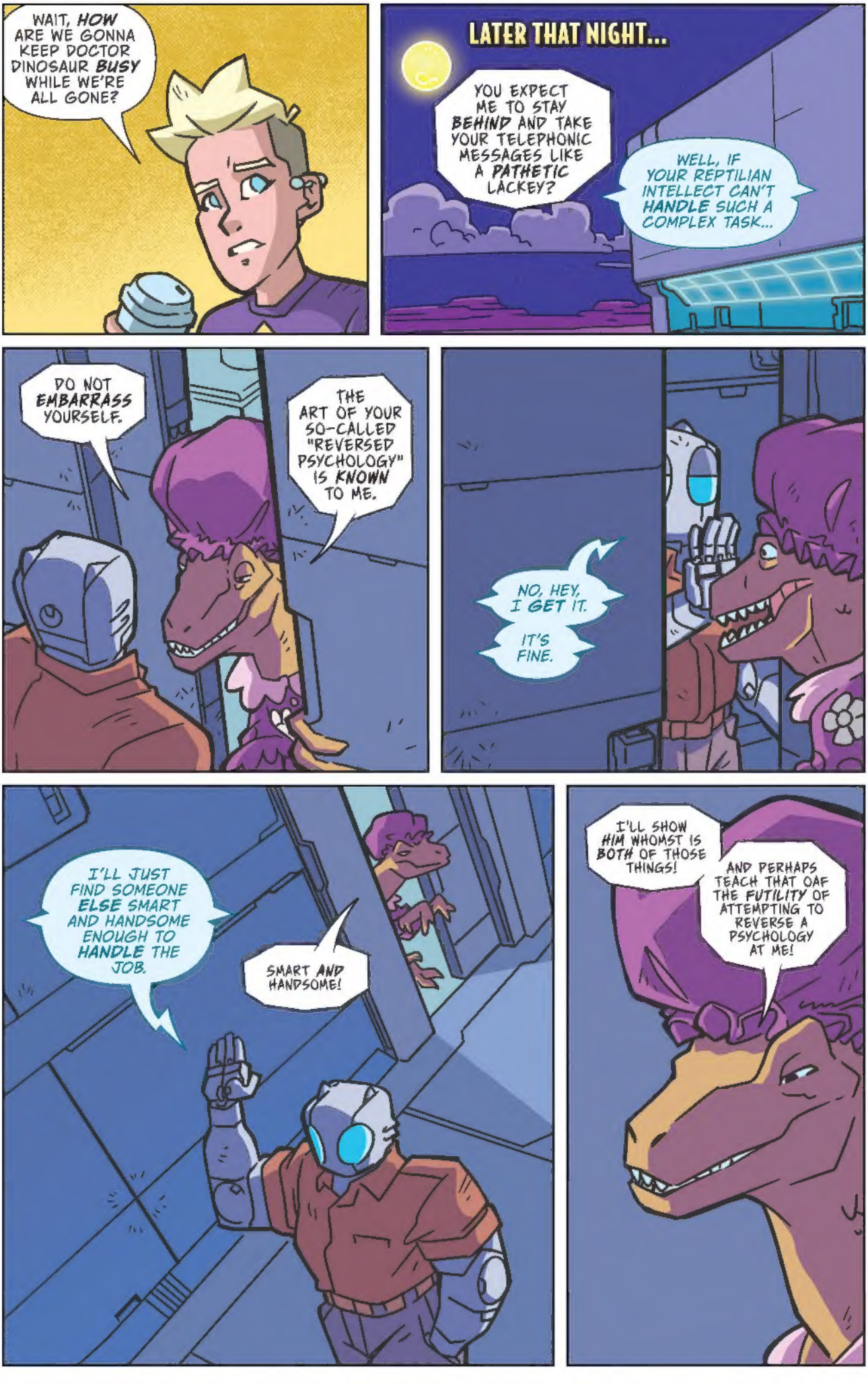
HELLO.
THIS ISN'T AS BAD AS IT LOOKS.
REALLY?
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR LABS IS ON FIRE.
YES.
BUT.
BUT WHAT?
BUT I WAS HOPING I WOULD THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY.

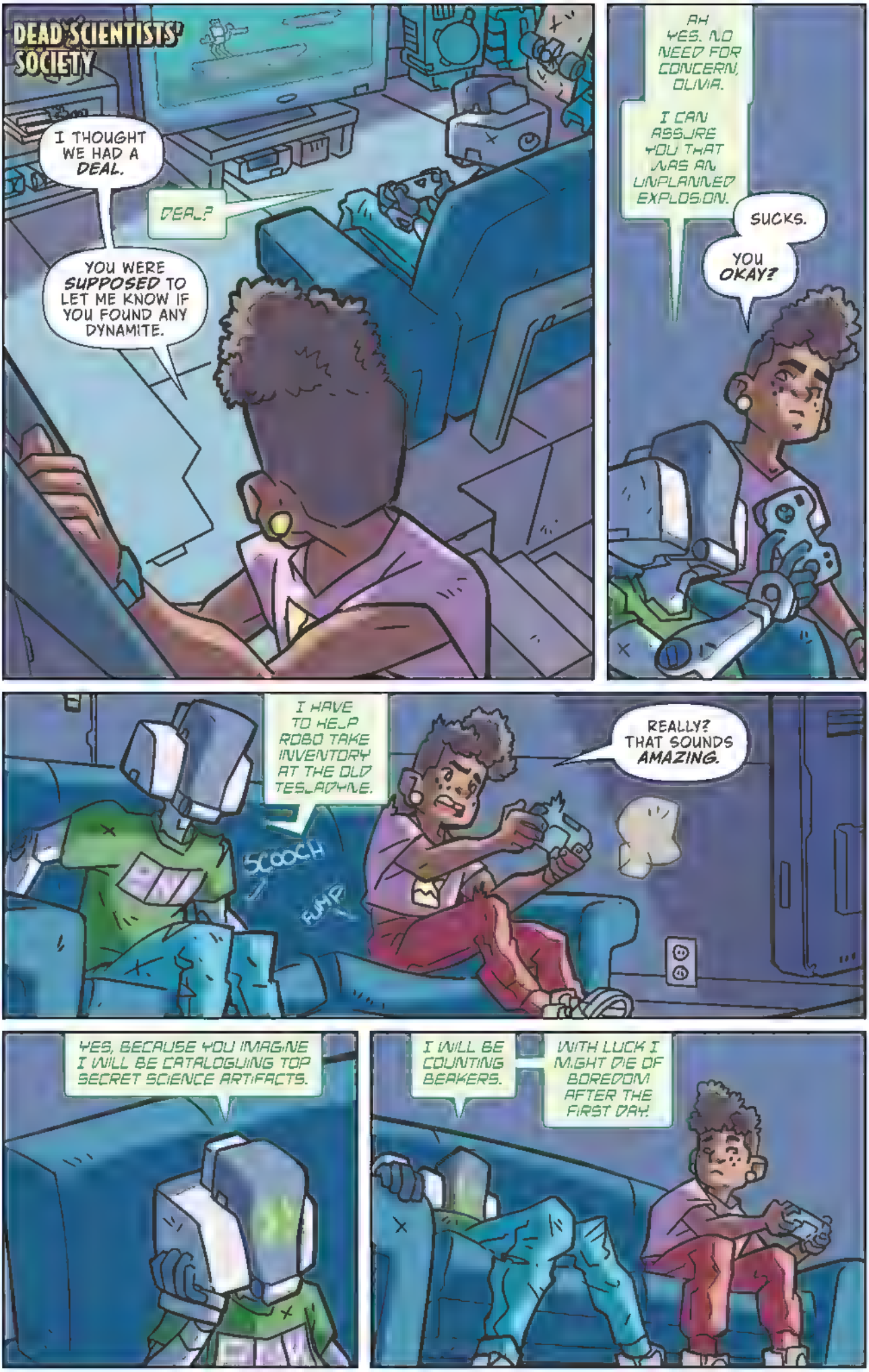

THIS IS YOUR THIRD CATASTROPHE IN A MONTH.
YOU WEREN'T TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS WITHOUT DIRECT SUPERVISION AFTER THE SECOND ONE.
YES.
BUT!
I HAD AN IDEA FOR IMPROVING THE ACCELERATOR'S ELECTRON GUNS!
THAT'S GOOD!
THAT'S BAD.

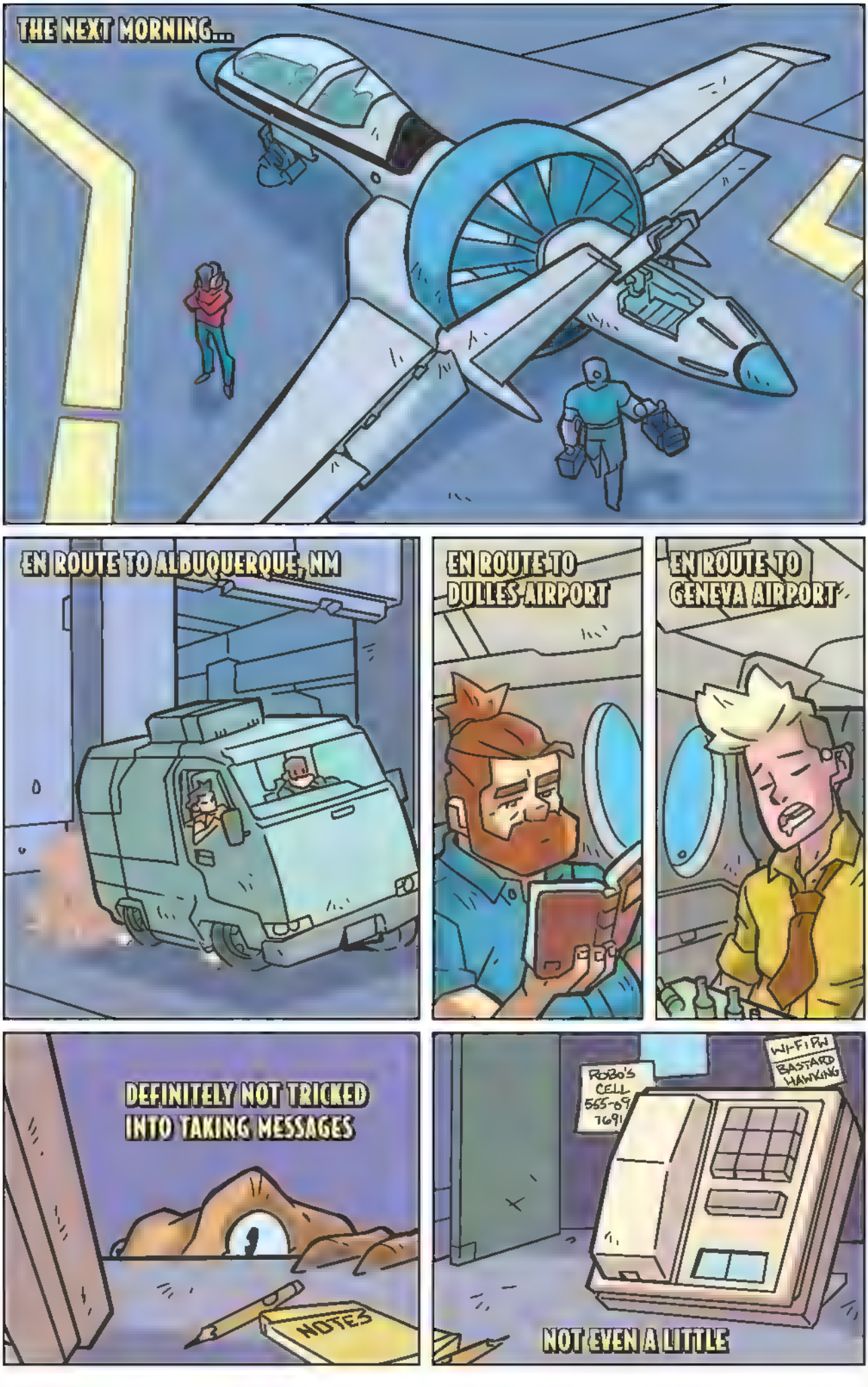
NOW THANKS TO YOUR EXPLOSION BRANSON'S GOT ALL HE NEEDS TO SHUT DOWN CONSTRUCTION BEFORE WE EVEN START!
THIS SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
I TRIPLE-CHECKED MY CALCULATIONS AND CONSULTED WITH A MENTOR.
MENTOR? WHO?
WHO?
WELL, YOU WEREN'T IN.
PROFESSOR DOCTOR DINOSAUR.
OKAY, DON'T CALL HIM THAT.
HE'S NOT A PROFESSOR.
AND BARELY A DINOSAUR.
WAIT, SO HE IS A DOCTOR?
"ACCORDING TO HIS 'DIPLOMA' FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF AKKAD, CIRCA THE 23RD CENTURY BCE, YES HE IS."

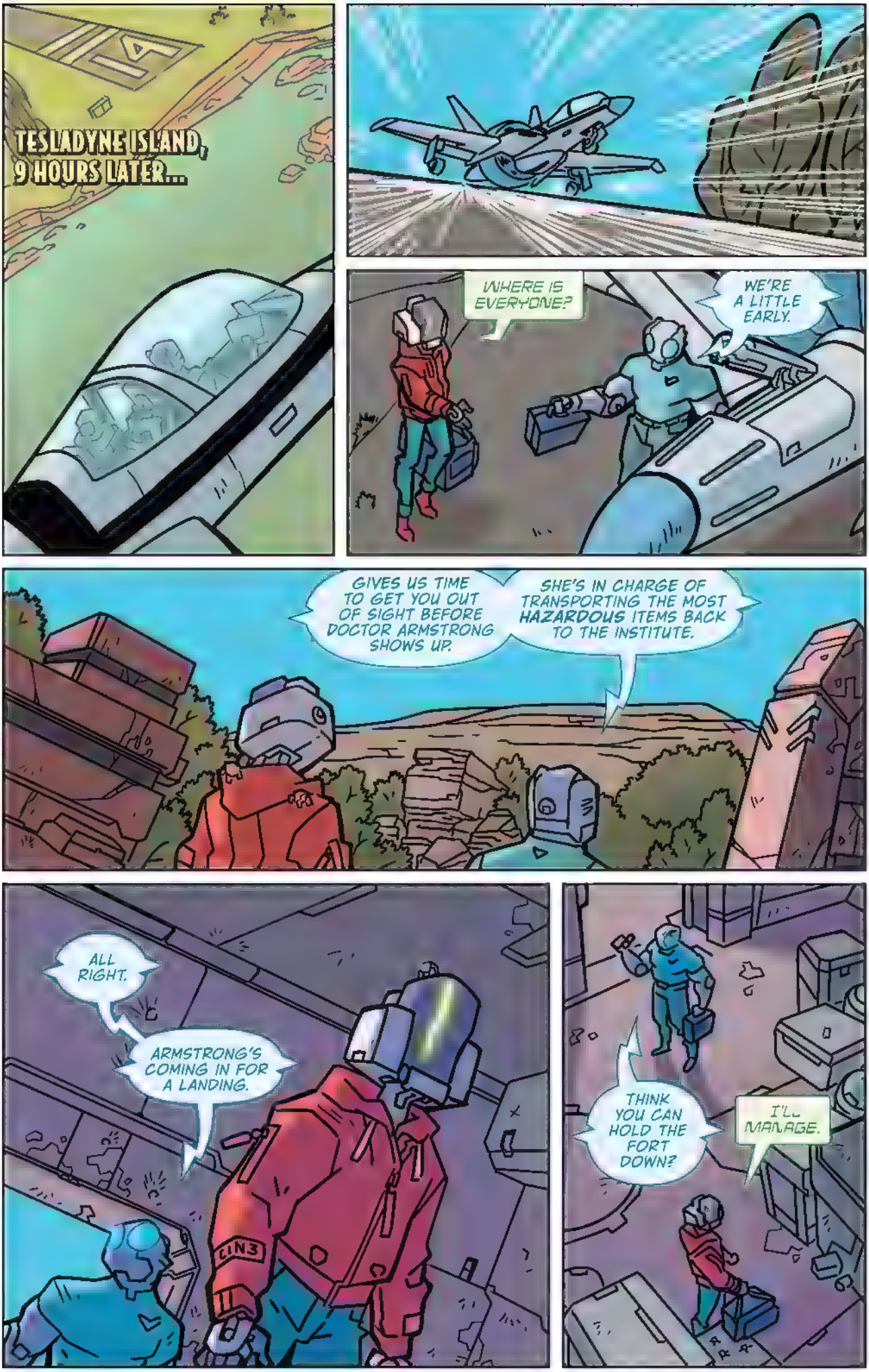

THIS ABSURD TEENAGE REBELLION PHASE OF YOURS CAN'T END SOON ENOUGH.
BUT I'M KEEPING MY OPTICS ON YOU UNTIL YOU GROW OUT OF IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE GOVERNMENT'S FINALLY TURNING OVER TESLADYNE ISLAND.
I'M OVERSEEING AN INVENTORY AUDIT STARTING TOMORROW AND YOU ARE GOING TO HELP.
THERE'S MORE TO ACTION SCIENCE THAN EXPLOSIONS AND PUNCHING DINOSAURS.
OH, AND THERE'S NO WI-FI ON THE ISLAND.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALAN.
HE'S JUST TESTING HIS BOUNDARIES.
AND MY PATIENCE.
PUNK

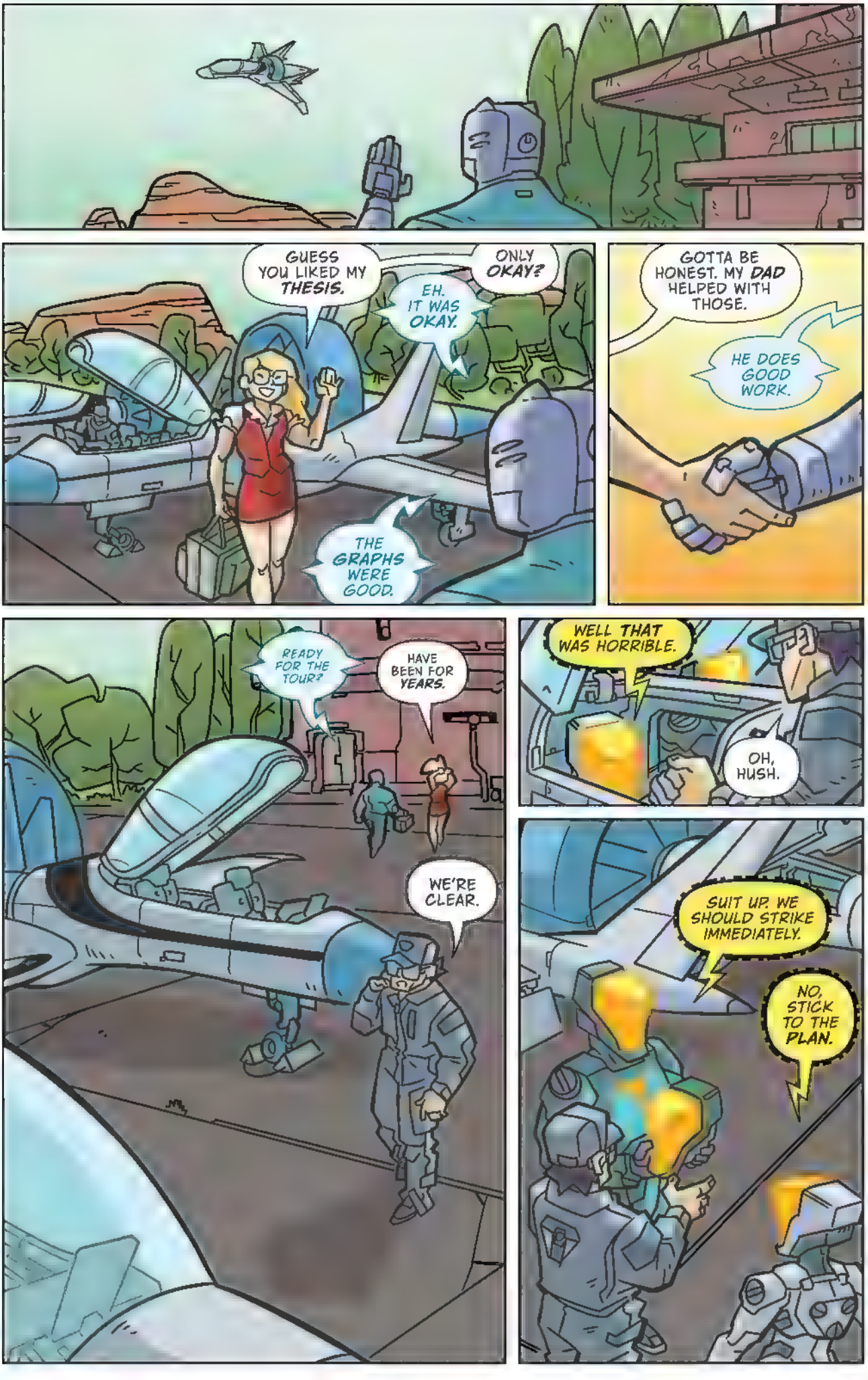
HAS HE EVER *TALKED* TO YOU? ABOUT JENKINS?
HE DOESN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT MUCH OF *ANYTHING* ANYMORE.
BE THERE FOR HIM AND HE'LL TALK WHEN HE'S *READY*.
THANKS, UR'NAR.
BE WELL, ATOMIC ROBO.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
BRANSON'S TIED UP OUR ACCELERATOR IN RED TAPE.
WE'RE CUTTING *THROUGH* IT BY CASHING IN FAVORS AT *EVERY* LEVEL.
VIK AND LANG.
REMIND THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S LOCAL OFFICE THAT WE SAVED *THE WORLD* A FEW TIMES.
PHIL, *YOU'LL* BE OUR MAN AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.
EXPLAIN HOW OUR ACCELERATOR CAN'T REVOLUTIONIZE PARTICLE PHYSICS IF WE CAN'T *BUILD* IT.
FOLEY, I WANT YOU WORKING WITH *CERES**.
MAKE THE CASE THAT BUILDING THIS THING IS BUILDING A *SAFER* WORLD.
*EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF EXOTIC RESEARCH AND STRATEGY

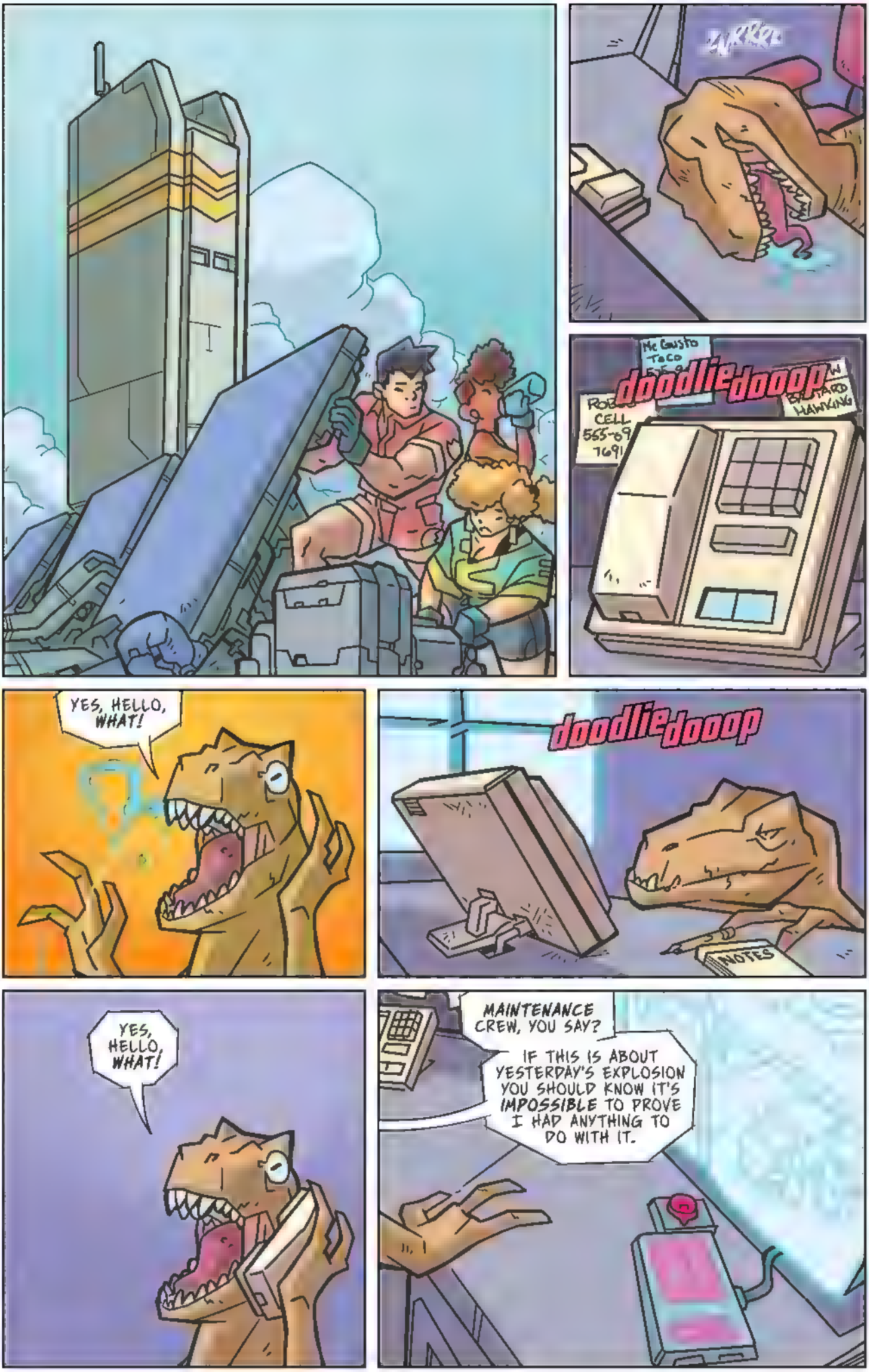

WAIT, HOW ARE WE GONNA KEEP DOCTOR DINOSAUR BUSY WHILE WE'RE ALL GONE?
LATER THAT NIGHT...
YOU EXPECT ME TO STAY BEHIND AND TAKE YOUR TELEPHONIC MESSAGES LIKE A PATHETIC LACKEY?
WELL, IF YOUR REPTILIAN INTELLECT CAN'T HANDLE SUCH A COMPLEX TASK...
DO NOT EMBARRASS YOURSELF.
THE ART OF YOUR SO-CALLED "REVERSED PSYCHOLOGY" IS KNOWN TO ME.
NO, HEY, I GET IT.
IT'S FINE.
I'LL JUST FIND SOMEONE ELSE SMART AND HANDSOME ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE JOB.
SMART AND HANDSOME!
I'LL SHOW HIM WHOMST IS BOTH OF THOSE THINGS!
AND PERHAPS TEACH THAT OAF THE FUTILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE A PSYCHOLOGY AT ME!

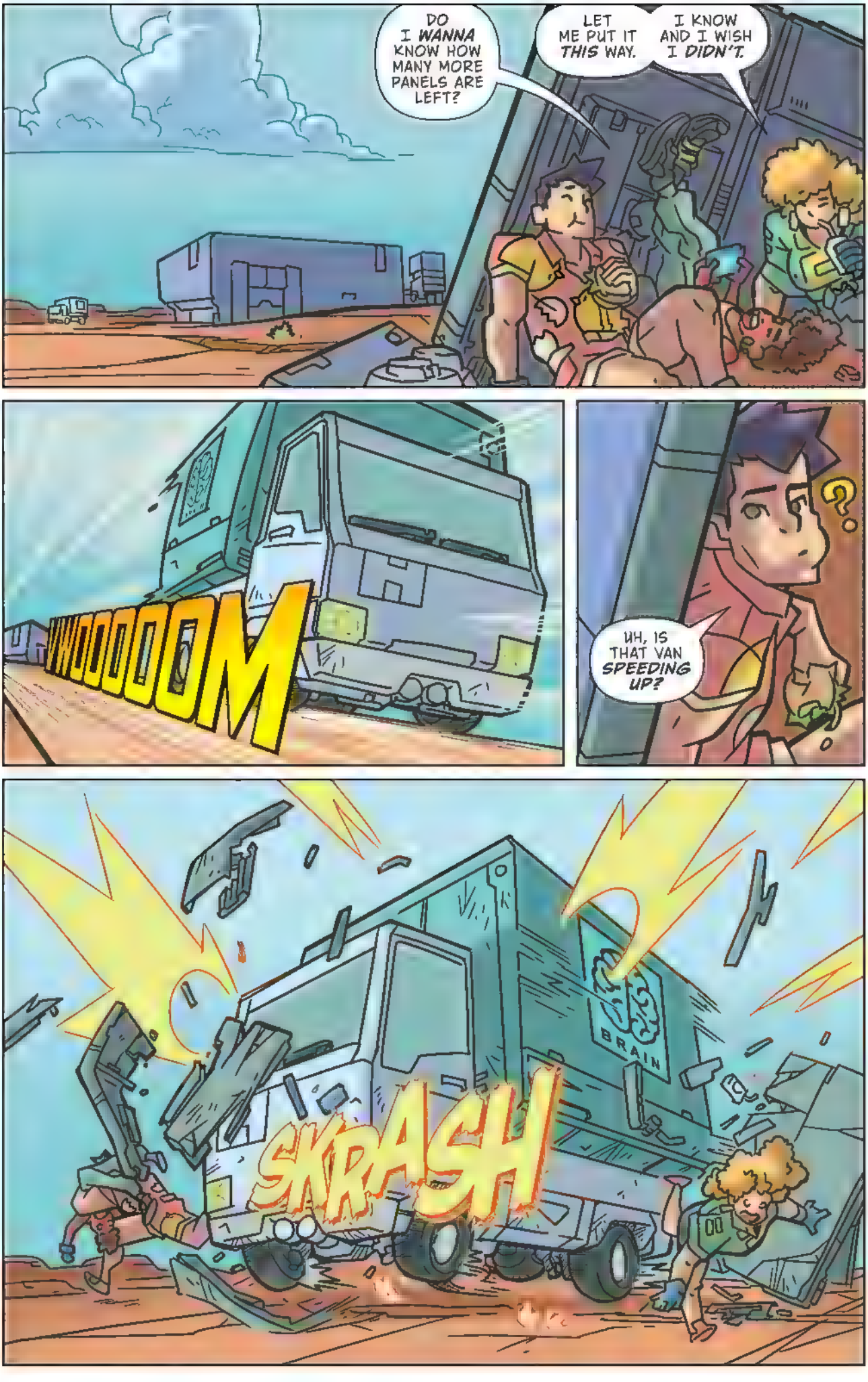

DEAD SCIENTISTS' SOCIETY
I THOUGHT WE HAD A DEAL.
DEAL?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LET ME KNOW IF YOU FOUND ANY DYNAMITE.
AH YES. NO NEED FOR CONCERN, OLIVIA.
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WAS AN UNPLANNED EXPLOSION.
SUCKS.
YOU OKAY?
I HAVE TO HELP ROBO TAKE INVENTORY AT THE OLD TESLADYNE.
REALLY? THAT SOUNDS AMAZING.
SCOOCH
PUMP
YES, BECAUSE YOU IMAGINE I WILL BE CATALOGUING TOP SECRET SCIENCE ARTIFACTS.
I WILL BE COUNTING BEAKERS.
WITH LUCK I MIGHT DIE OF BOREDOM AFTER THE FIRST DAY.


THE NEXT MORNING...
EN ROUTE TO ALBUQUERQUE, NM
EN ROUTE TO DULLES AIRPORT
EN ROUTE TO GENEVA AIRPORT
DEFINITELY NOT TRICKED INTO TAKING MESSAGES
NOTES
ROBO'S CELL 565-69 7691
WI-FI PW BASTARD HAWKING
NOT EVEN A LITTLE

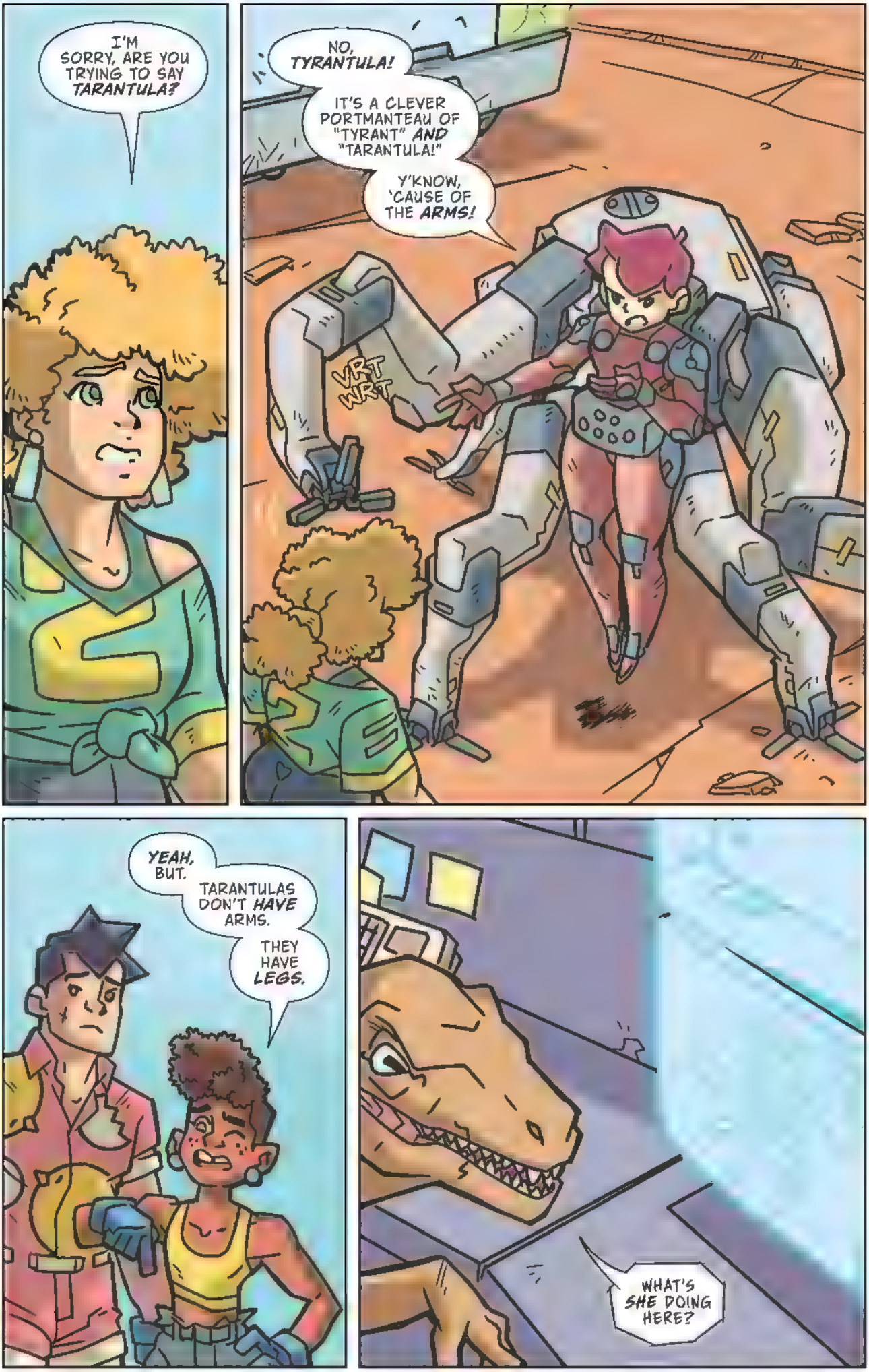

TESLADYNE ISLAND, 9 HOURS LATER...
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
WE'RE A LITTLE EARLY.
GIVES US TIME TO GET YOU OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE DOCTOR ARMSTRONG SHOWS UP.
SHE'S IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORTING THE MOST HAZARDOUS ITEMS BACK TO THE INSTITUTE.
ALL RIGHT.
ARMSTRONG'S COMING IN FOR A LANDING.
THINK YOU CAN HOLD THE FORT DOWN?
I'LL MANAGE.

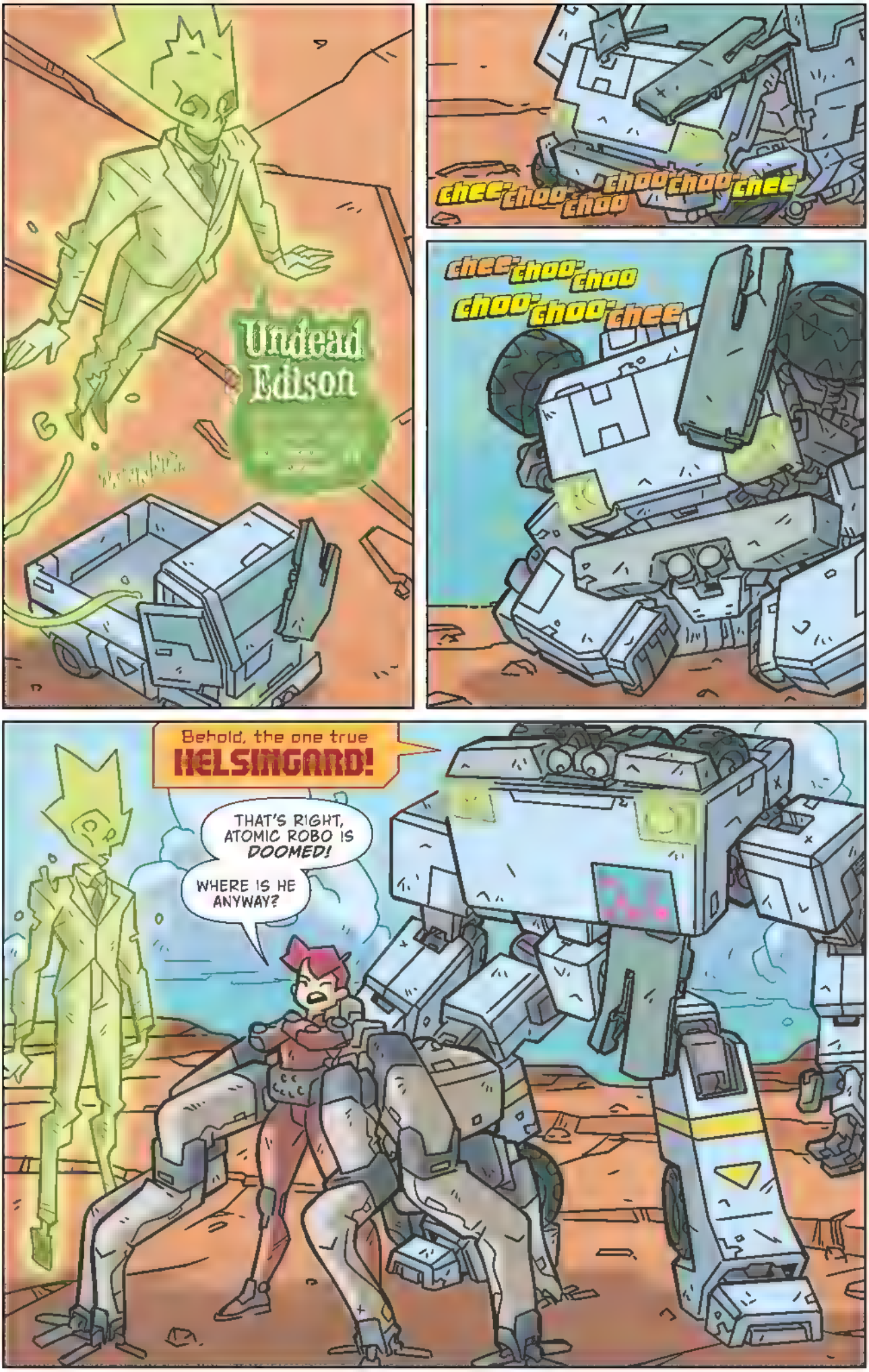

GUESS YOU LIKED MY THESIS.
ONLY OKAY?
EH. IT WAS OKAY.
THE GRAPHS WERE GOOD.
GOTTA BE HONEST. MY DAD HELPED WITH THOSE.
HE DOES GOOD WORK.
READY FOR THE TOUR?
HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS.
WE'RE CLEAR.
WELL THAT WAS HORRIBLE.
OH, HUSH.
SUIT UP. WE SHOULD STRIKE IMMEDIATELY.
NO, STICK TO THE PLAN.

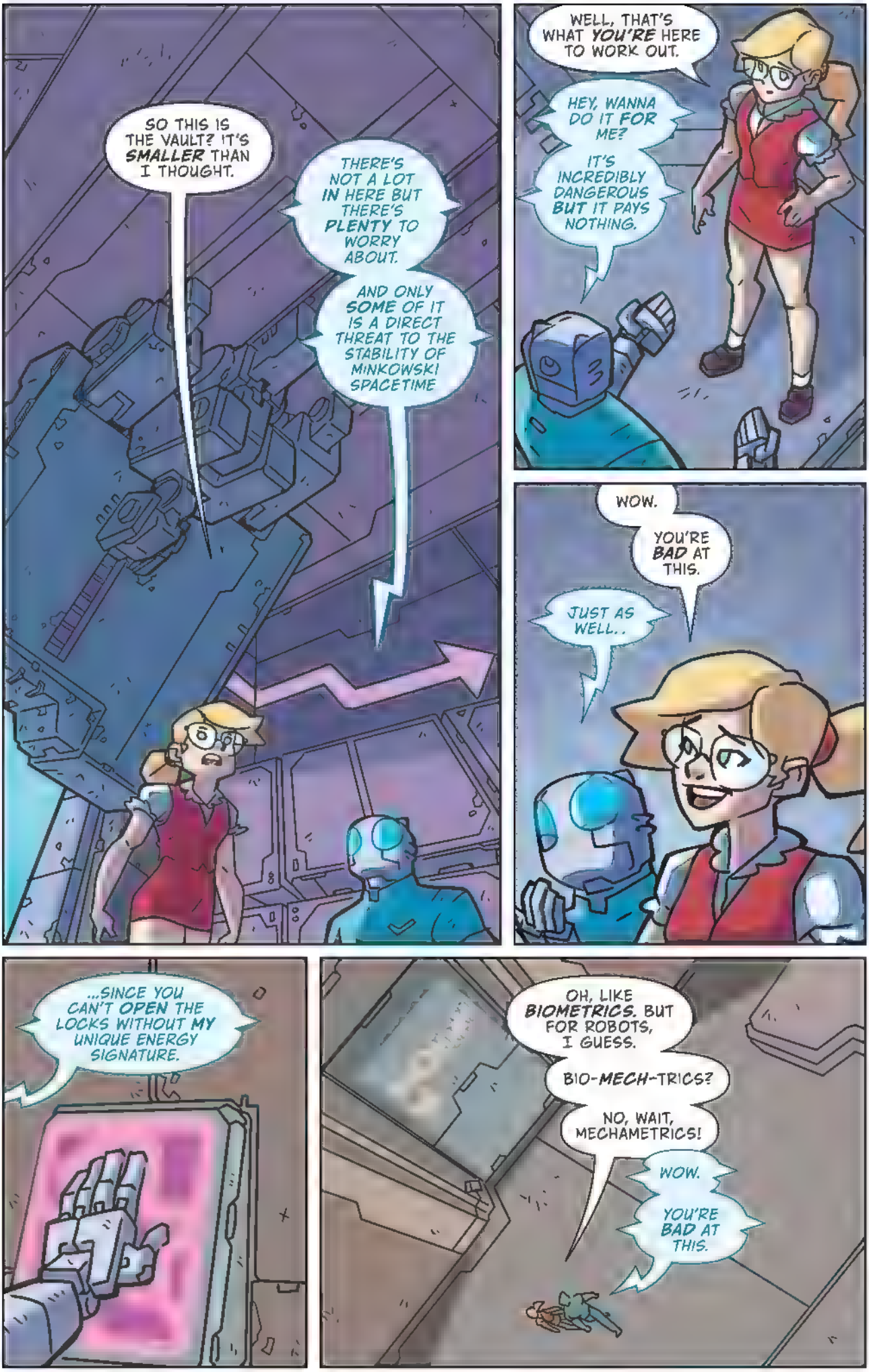

ZNRRL
doodliedooop
Mc Gusto Taco
ROBO CELL 555-89 7691
YES, HELLO, WHAT!
doodliedooop
NOTES
YES, HELLO, WHAT!
MAINTENANCE CREW, YOU SAY?
IF THIS IS ABOUT YESTERDAY'S EXPLOSION YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

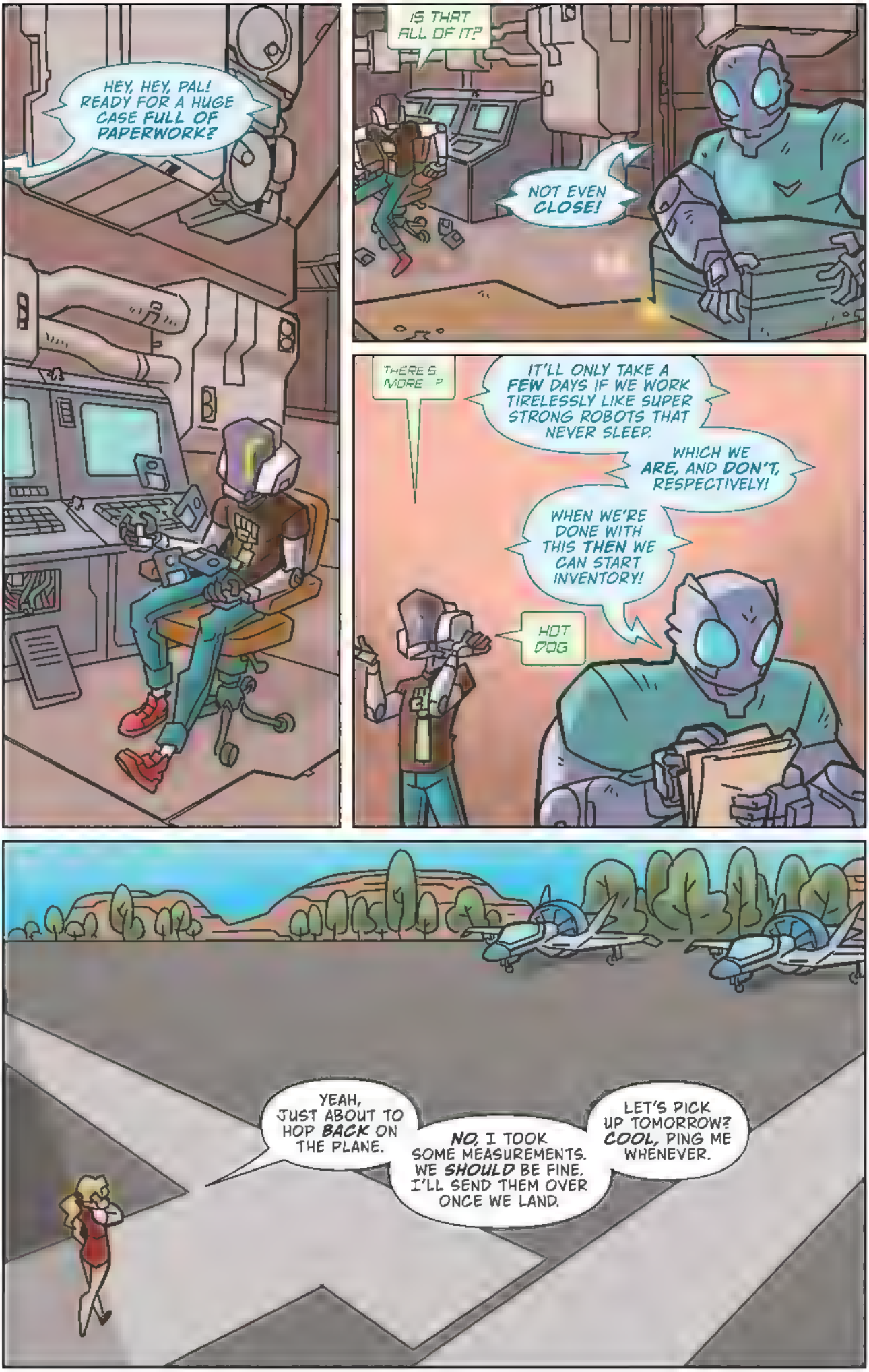

DO I WANNA KNOW HOW MANY MORE PANELS ARE LEFT?
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY.
I KNOW AND I WISH I DIDN'T.
WOOOOOOM
UH, IS THAT VAN SPEEDING UP?
?
BRAIN
SKRASH

THE HELL, MAN!
WE JUST FIXED THAT!
PFOOOOM
IT IS I, ATOMIC ROBO'S GREATEST NEMESIS AND LOVER.
BOOM
TYRANTULA!


I'M SORRY, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY *TARANTULA?*
NO, *TYRANTULA!*
IT'S A CLEVER PORTMANTEAU OF "TYRANT" *AND* "TARANTULA!"
Y'KNOW, 'CAUSE OF THE *ARMS!*
VRT WRT
YEAH, BUT.
TARANTULAS DON'T *HAVE* ARMS.
THEY HAVE *LEGS.*
WHAT'S *SHE* DOING HERE?


Undead Edison
chee-choo-choo
choo-choo-chee
chee-choo-choo
choo-choo-chee
Behold, the one true HELSINGARD!
THAT'S RIGHT, ATOMIC ROBO IS DOOMED!
WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?

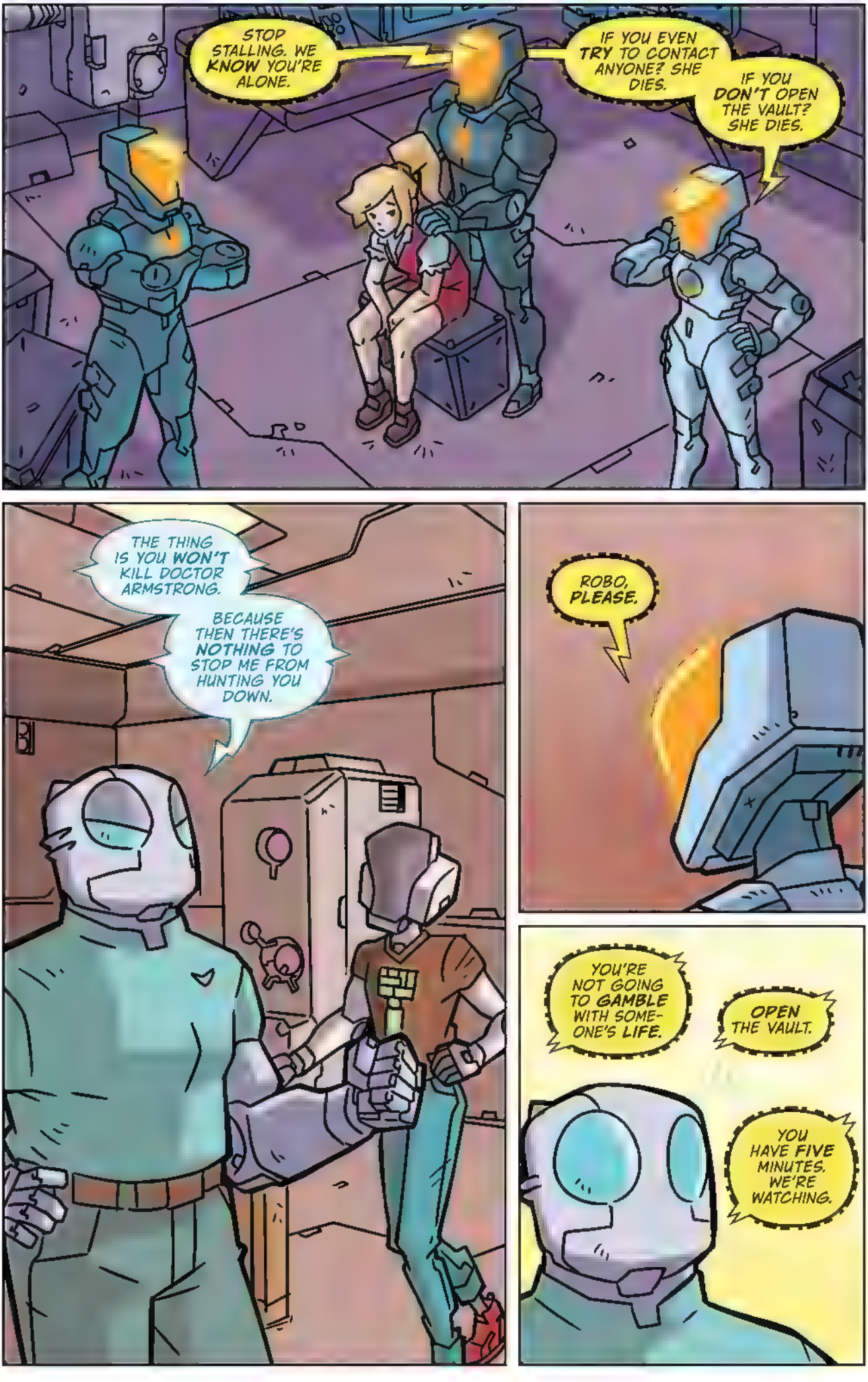

SO THIS IS THE VAULT? IT'S SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT.
THERE'S NOT A LOT IN HERE BUT THERE'S PLENTY TO WORRY ABOUT.
AND ONLY SOME OF IT IS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF MINKOWSKI SPACETIME
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO WORK OUT.
HEY, WANNA DO IT FOR ME?
IT'S INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS BUT IT PAYS NOTHING.
WOW.
YOU'RE BAD AT THIS.
JUST AS WELL..
...SINCE YOU CAN'T OPEN THE LOCKS WITHOUT MY UNIQUE ENERGY SIGNATURE.
OH, LIKE BIOMETRICS. BUT FOR ROBOTS, I GUESS.
BIO-MECH-TRICS?
NO, WAIT, MECHAMETRICS!
WOW.
YOU'RE BAD AT THIS.

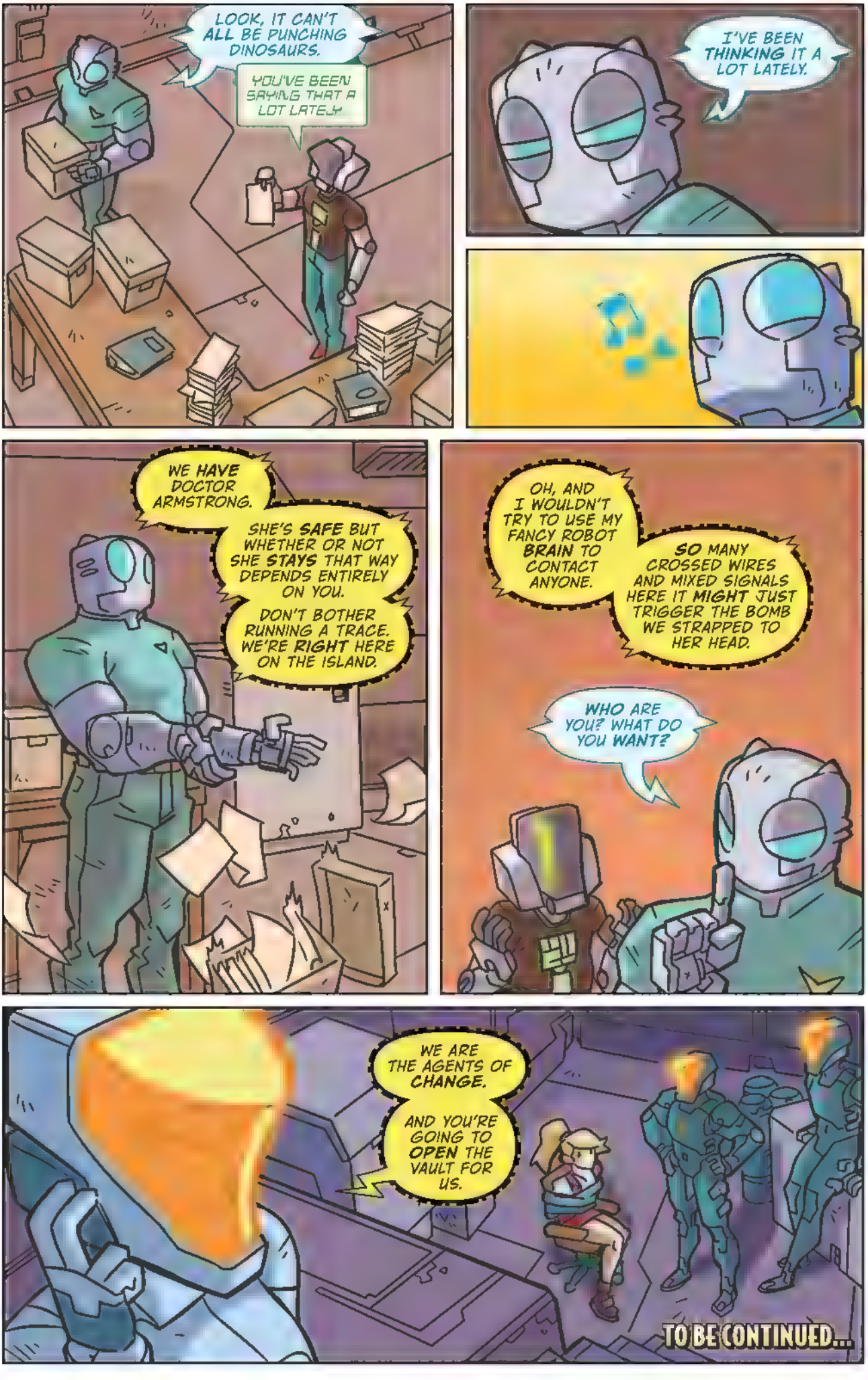

HEY, HEY, PAL! READY FOR A HUGE CASE FULL OF PAPERWORK?
IS THAT ALL OF IT?
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
THERE'S MORE?
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A FEW DAYS IF WE WORK TIRELESSLY LIKE SUPER STRONG ROBOTS THAT NEVER SLEEP.
WHICH WE ARE, AND DON'T, RESPECTIVELY!
WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS THEN WE CAN START INVENTORY!
HOT DOG
YEAH, JUST ABOUT TO HOP BACK ON THE PLANE.
NO, I TOOK SOME MEASUREMENTS. WE SHOULD BE FINE. I'LL SEND THEM OVER ONCE WE LAND.
LET'S PICK UP TOMORROW? COOL, PING ME WHENEVER.

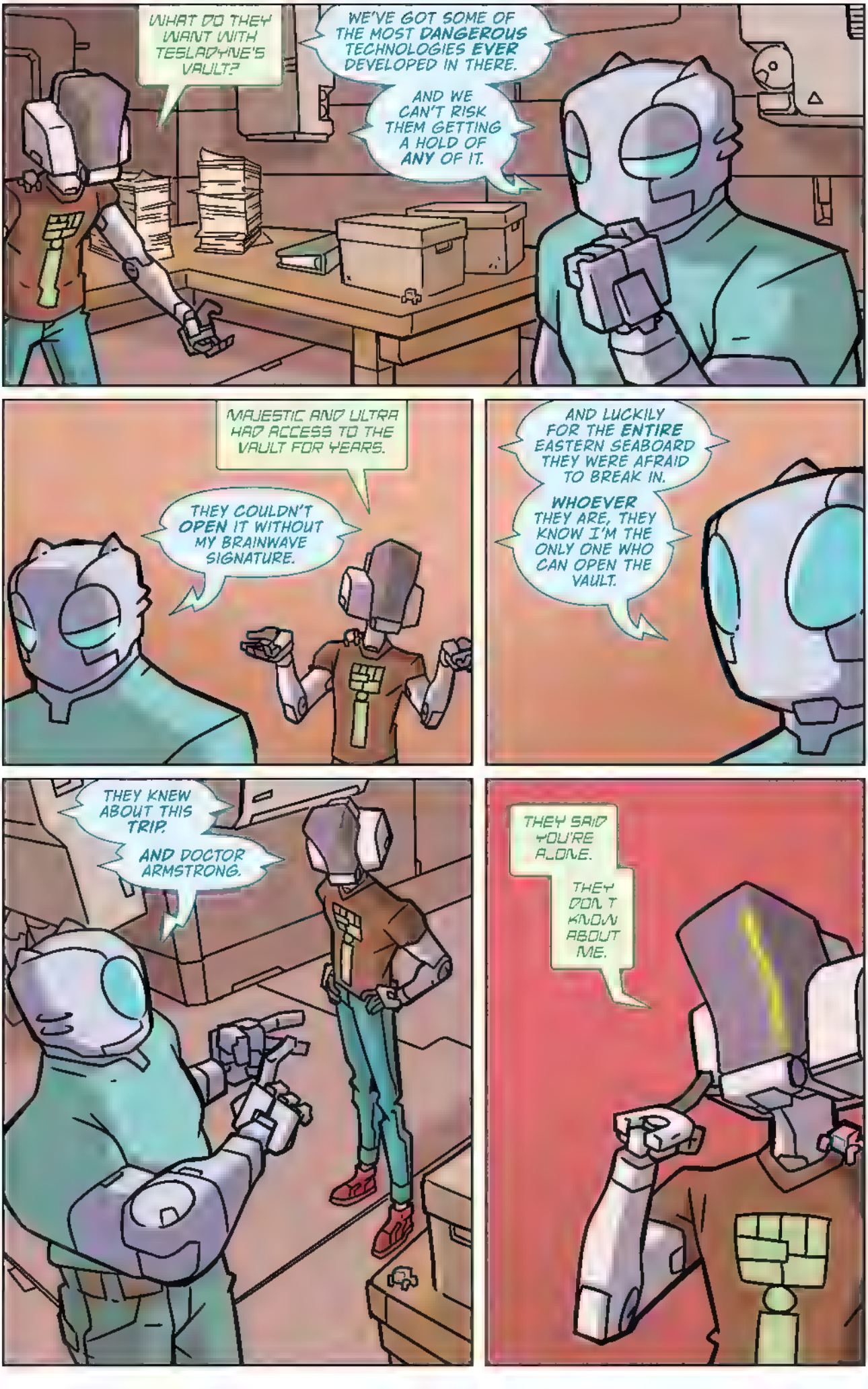
KA-BOOM!
SORRY, DOCTOR.
YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

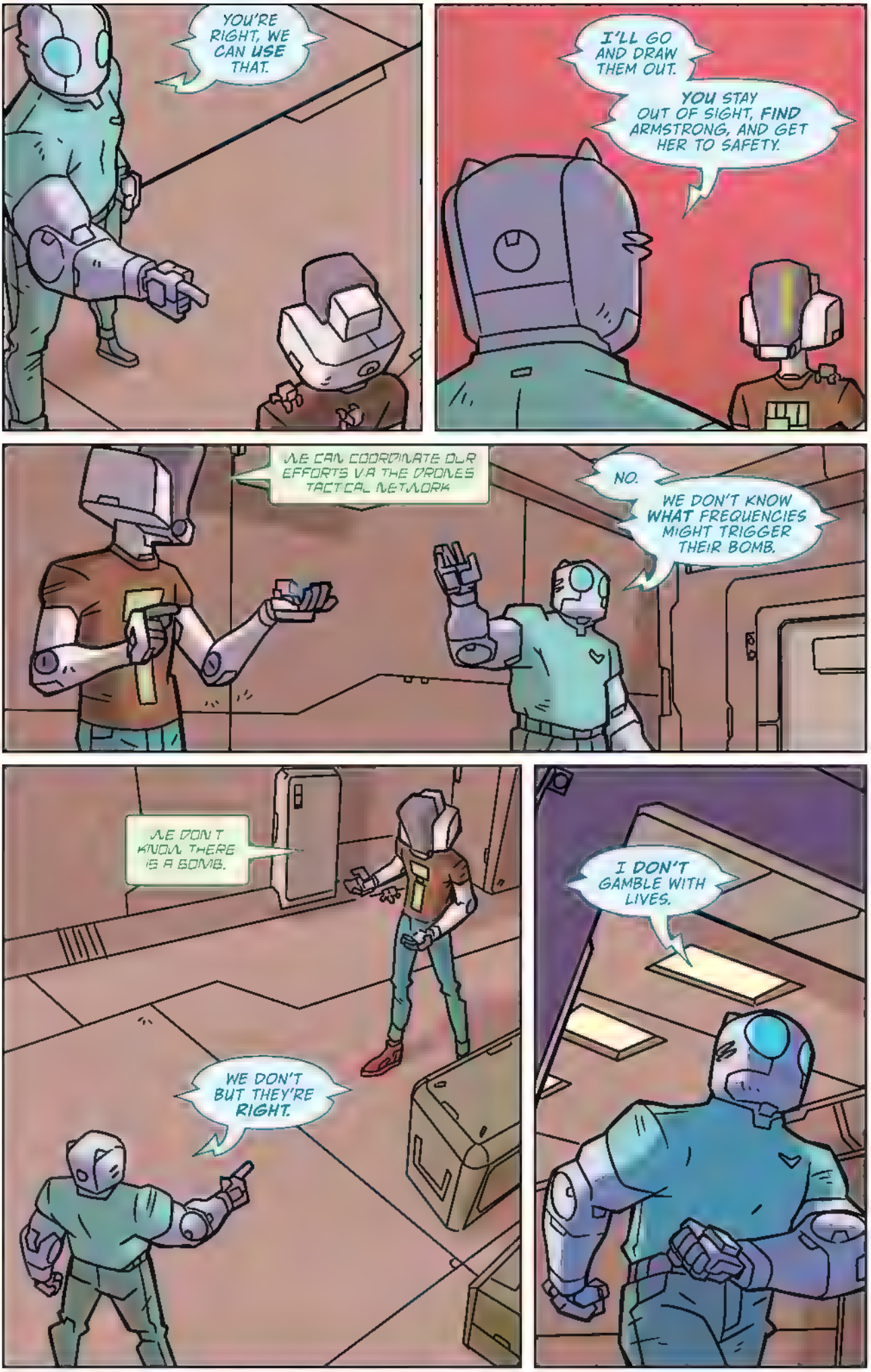
ATOMIC ROBO

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENCE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!


STOP STALLING. WE KNOW YOU'RE ALONE.
IF YOU EVEN TRY TO CONTACT ANYONE? SHE DIES.
IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE VAULT? SHE DIES.
THE THING IS YOU WON'T KILL DOCTOR ARMSTRONG.
BECAUSE THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME FROM HUNTING YOU DOWN.
ROBO, PLEASE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GAMBLE WITH SOMEONE'S LIFE.
OPEN THE VAULT.
YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES. WE'RE WATCHING.

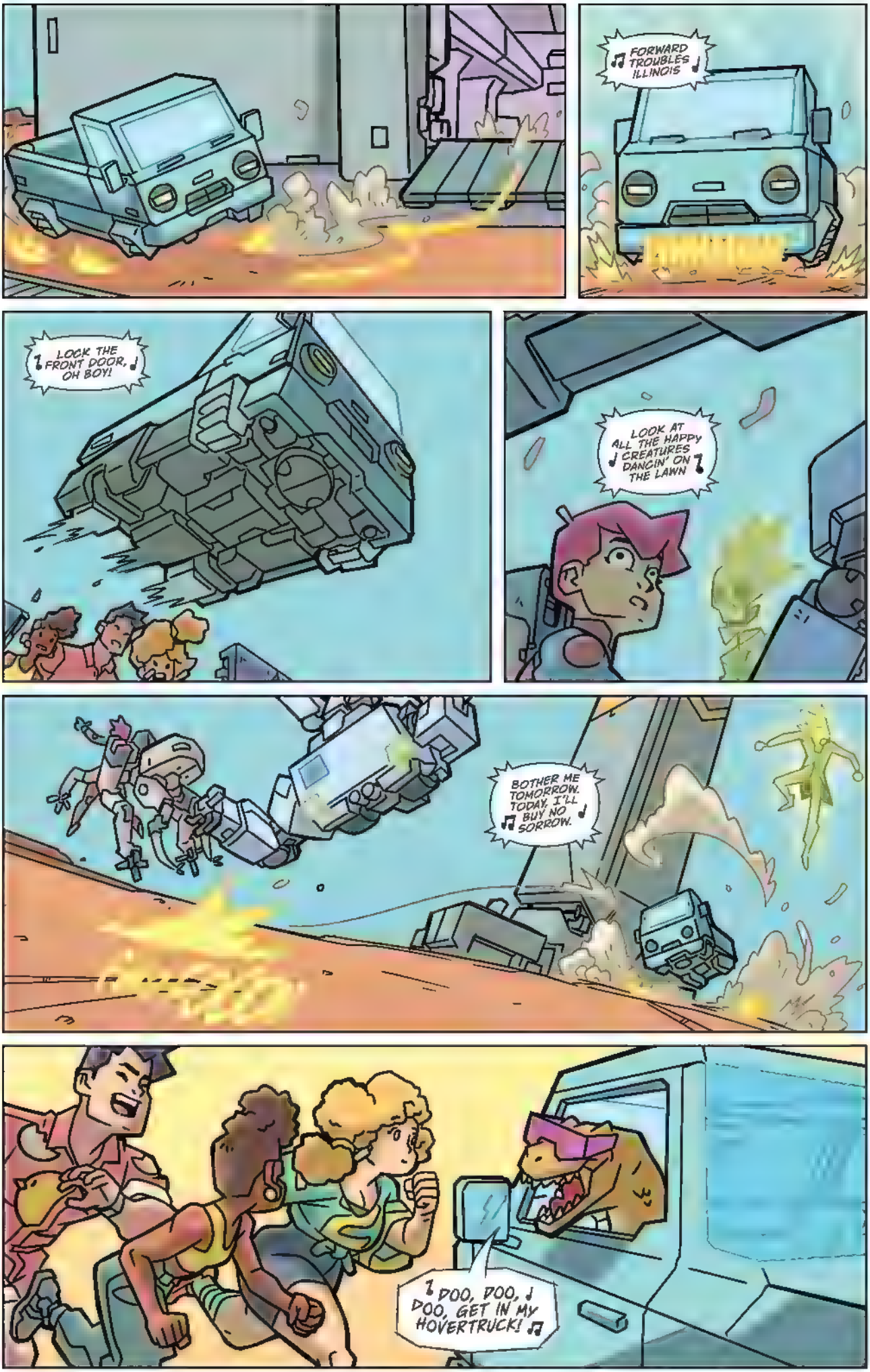

LOOK, IT CAN'T ALL BE PUNCHING DINOSAURS.
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT A LOT LATELY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING IT A LOT LATELY.
WE HAVE DOCTOR ARMSTRONG.
SHE'S SAFE BUT WHETHER OR NOT SHE STAYS THAT WAY DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON YOU.
DON'T BOTHER RUNNING A TRACE. WE'RE RIGHT HERE ON THE ISLAND.
OH, AND I WOULDN'T TRY TO USE MY FANCY ROBOT BRAIN TO CONTACT ANYONE.
SO MANY CROSSED WIRES AND MIXED SIGNALS HERE IT MIGHT JUST TRIGGER THE BOMB WE STRAPPED TO HER HEAD.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO OPEN THE VAULT FOR US.
TO BE CONTINUED...

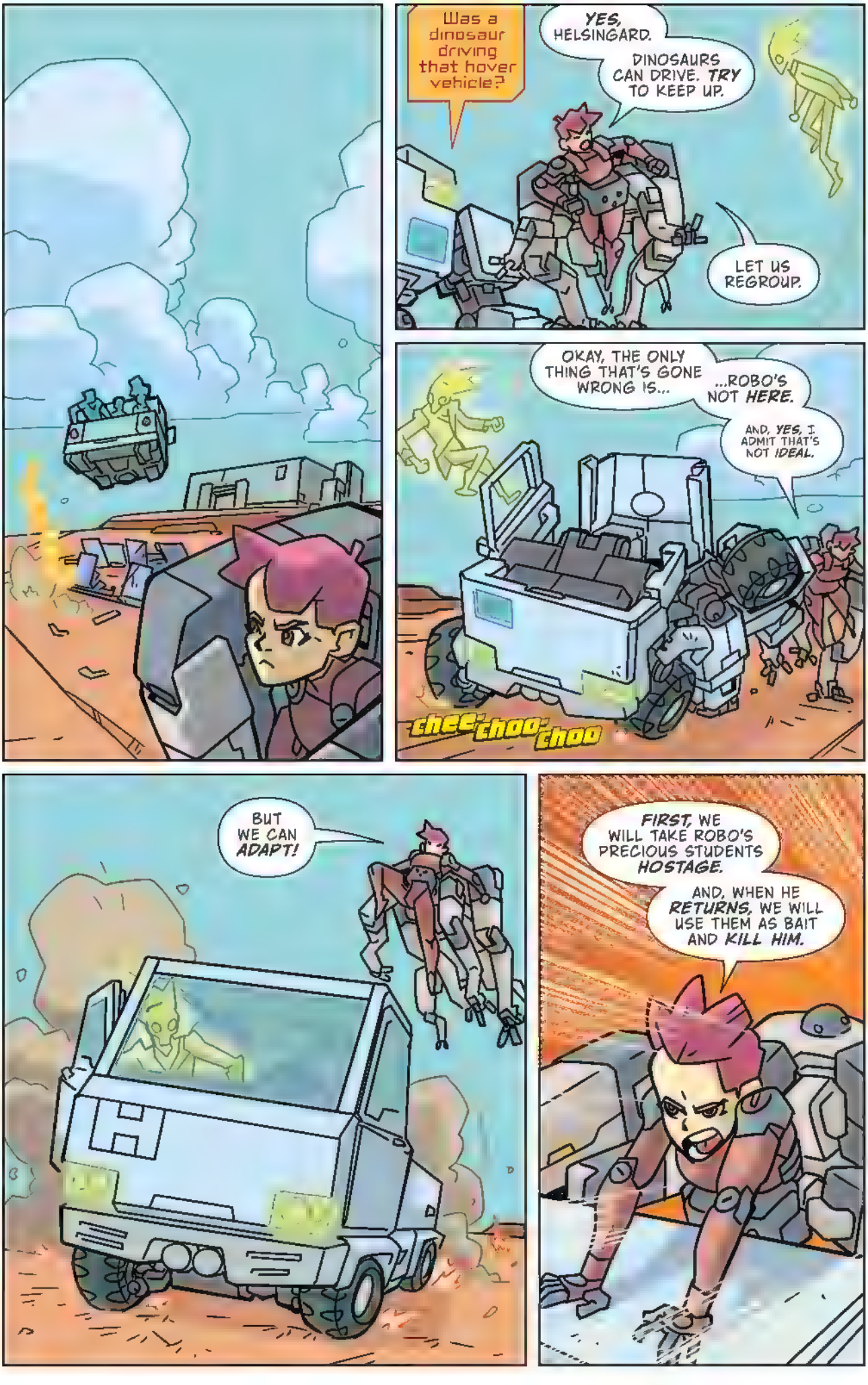

WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH TESLADYNE'S VAULT?
WE'VE GOT SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TECHNOLOGIES EVER DEVELOPED IN THERE.
AND WE CAN'T RISK THEM GETTING A HOLD OF ANY OF IT.
MAJESTIC AND ULTRA HAD ACCESS TO THE VAULT FOR YEARS.
THEY COULDN'T OPEN IT WITHOUT MY BRAINWAVE SIGNATURE.
AND LUCKILY FOR THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD THEY WERE AFRAID TO BREAK IN.
WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY KNOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN OPEN THE VAULT.
THEY KNEW ABOUT THIS TRIP.
AND DOCTOR ARMSTRONG.
THEY SAID YOU'RE ALONE.
THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME.

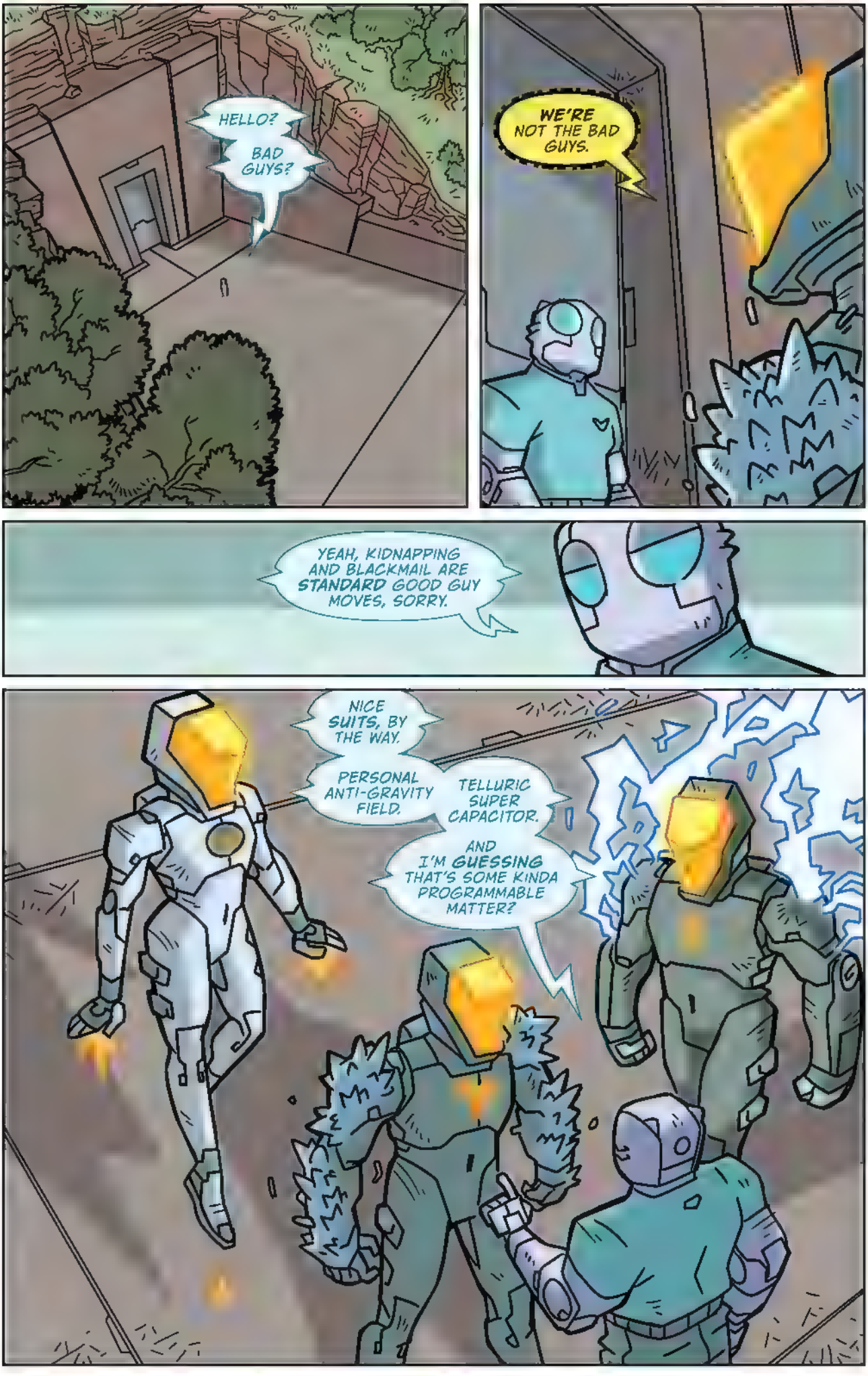

YOU'RE RIGHT, WE CAN USE THAT.
I'LL GO AND DRAW THEM OUT.
YOU STAY OUT OF SIGHT, FIND ARMSTRONG, AND GET HER TO SAFETY.
WE CAN COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS VIA THE DRONES TACTICAL NETWORK
NO.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT FREQUENCIES MIGHT TRIGGER THEIR BOMB.
WE DON'T KNOW THERE IS A BOMB.
WE DON'T BUT THEY'RE RIGHT.
I DON'T GAMBLE WITH LIVES.

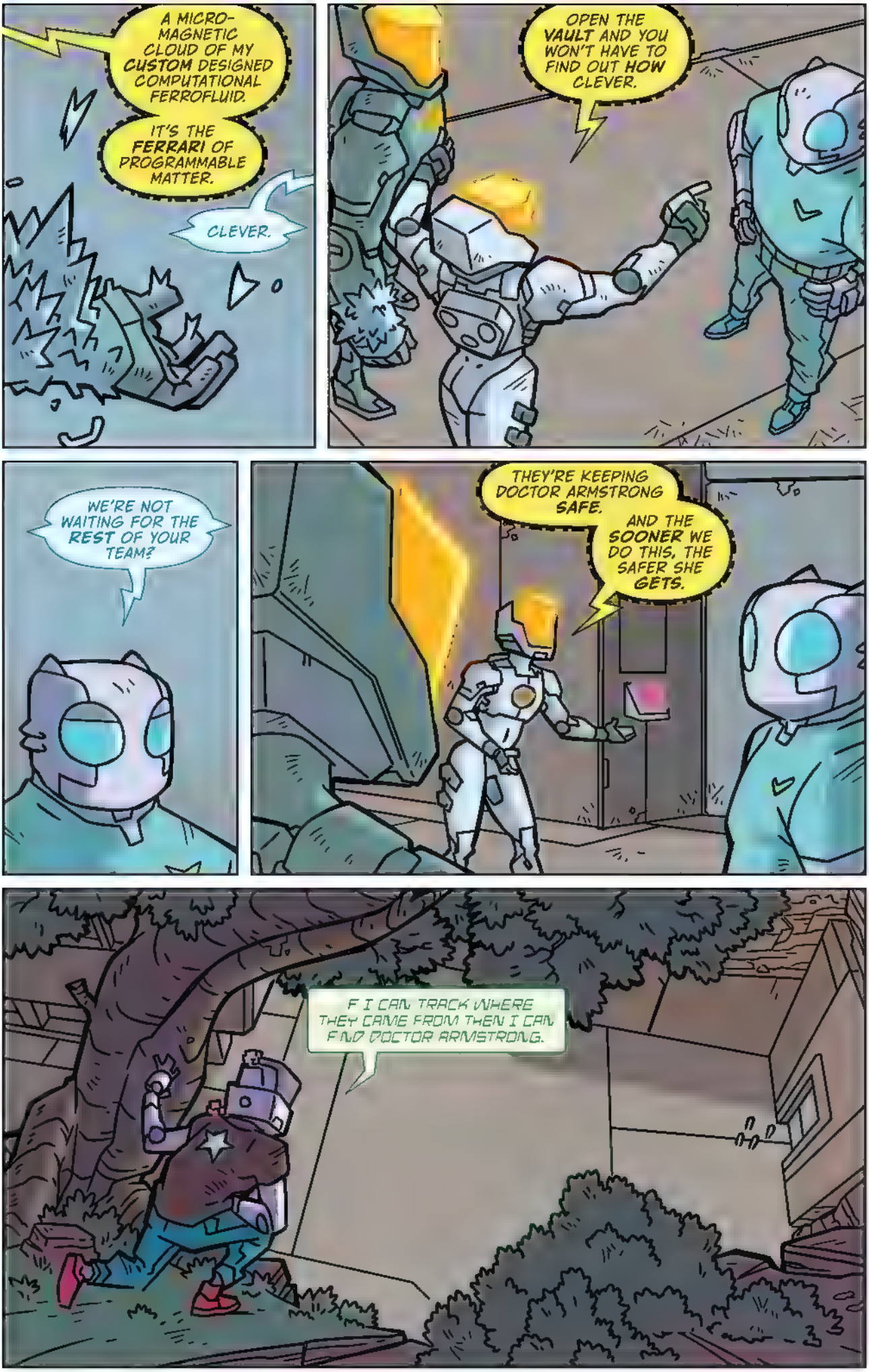
That was NOT the plan
SHUT UP, I'M THINKING!
SHUT UP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HE'S NOT HERE?"
ROBO'S BACK ON THE EAST COAST.
FLEW OUT THIS MORNING.
YOU MISSED 'IM BY, LIKE, HOURS.
GRAH!
whuff

KSHUNK
WE'RE TRYING TO FIX THOSE!
LOOK, WE CAN WORK WITH THIS.
WILL YOU STOP SAYING, "BEYOND THE GRAVE," ALL THE TIME?!
YOU'RE A WEIRD SPIRIT THING.
WE GET IT!
YOU DON'T HEAR ME SAYING, "NOTHING IS BEYOND MY REACH" OR WHATEVER!
YOU COULD STAY HERE UNTIL HE GETS BACK?
BEN!

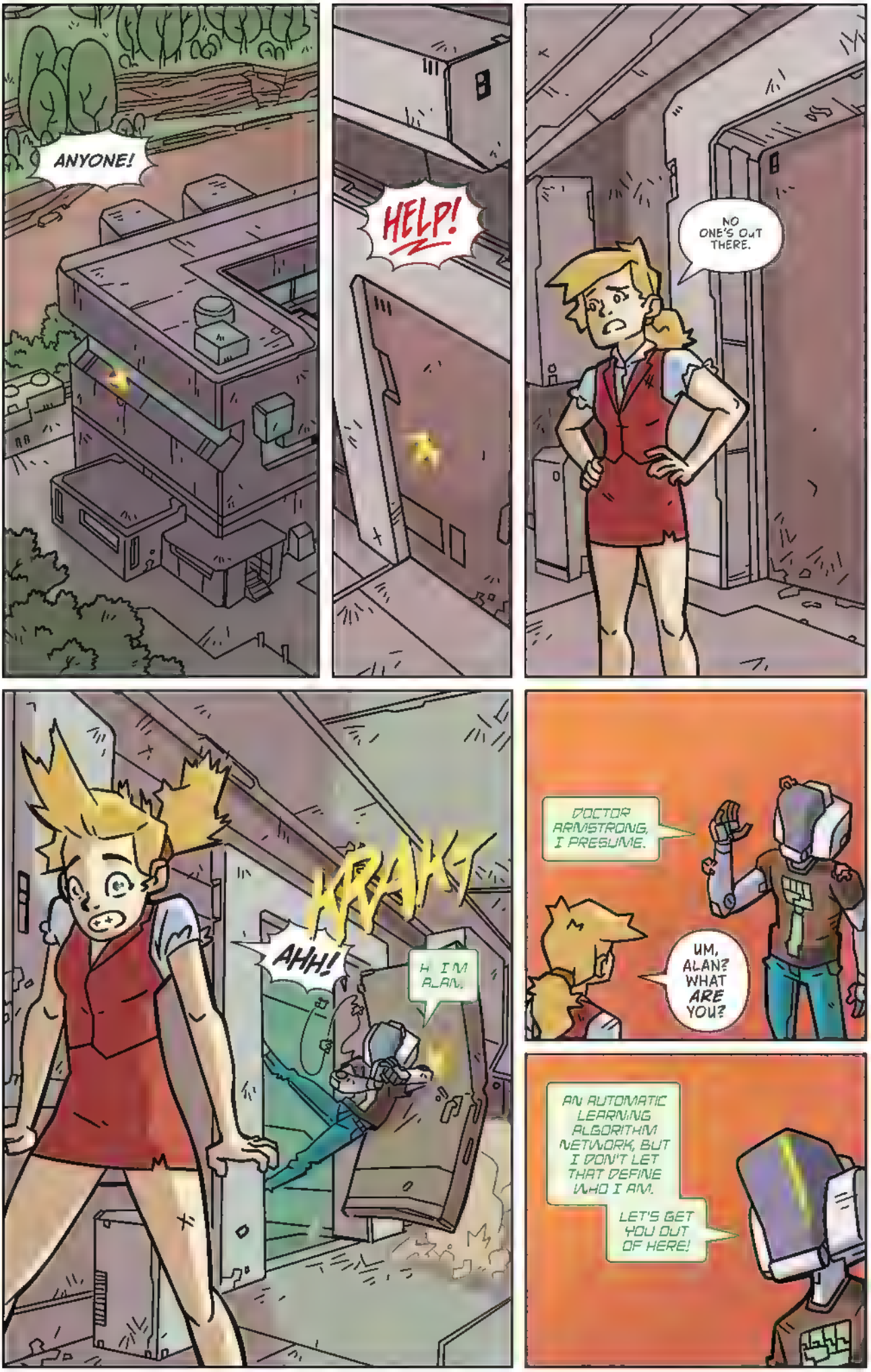

♫ FORWARD TROUBLES ILLINOIS ♩
♩ LOCK THE FRONT DOOR, ♩ OH BOY!
LOOK AT ALL THE HAPPY ♩ CREATURES DANCIN' ON THE LAWN ♩
BOTHER ME TOMORROW. TODAY, I'LL ♫ BUY NO SORROW. ♩
♩ DOO, DOO, ♩ DOO, GET IN MY HOVERTRUCK! ♫

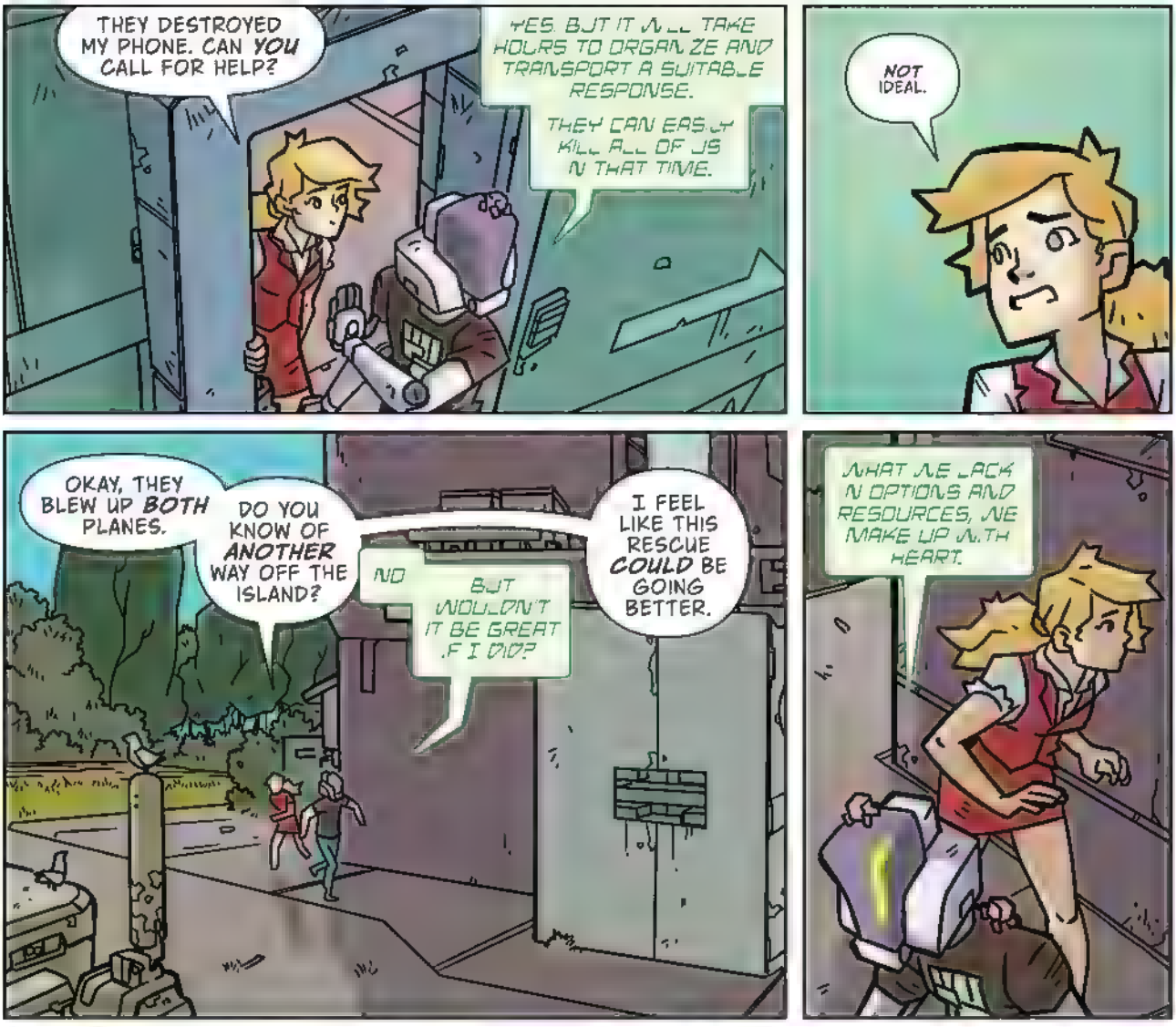

Was a dinosaur driving that hover vehicle?
YES, HELSINGARD.
DINOSAURS CAN DRIVE. TRY TO KEEP UP.
LET US REGROUP.
OKAY, THE ONLY THING THAT'S GONE WRONG IS...
...ROBO'S NOT HERE.
AND, YES, I ADMIT THAT'S NOT IDEAL.
chee-choo-choo
BUT WE CAN ADAPT!
FIRST, WE WILL TAKE ROBO'S PRECIOUS STUDENTS HOSTAGE.
AND, WHEN HE RETURNS, WE WILL USE THEM AS BAIT AND KILL HIM.

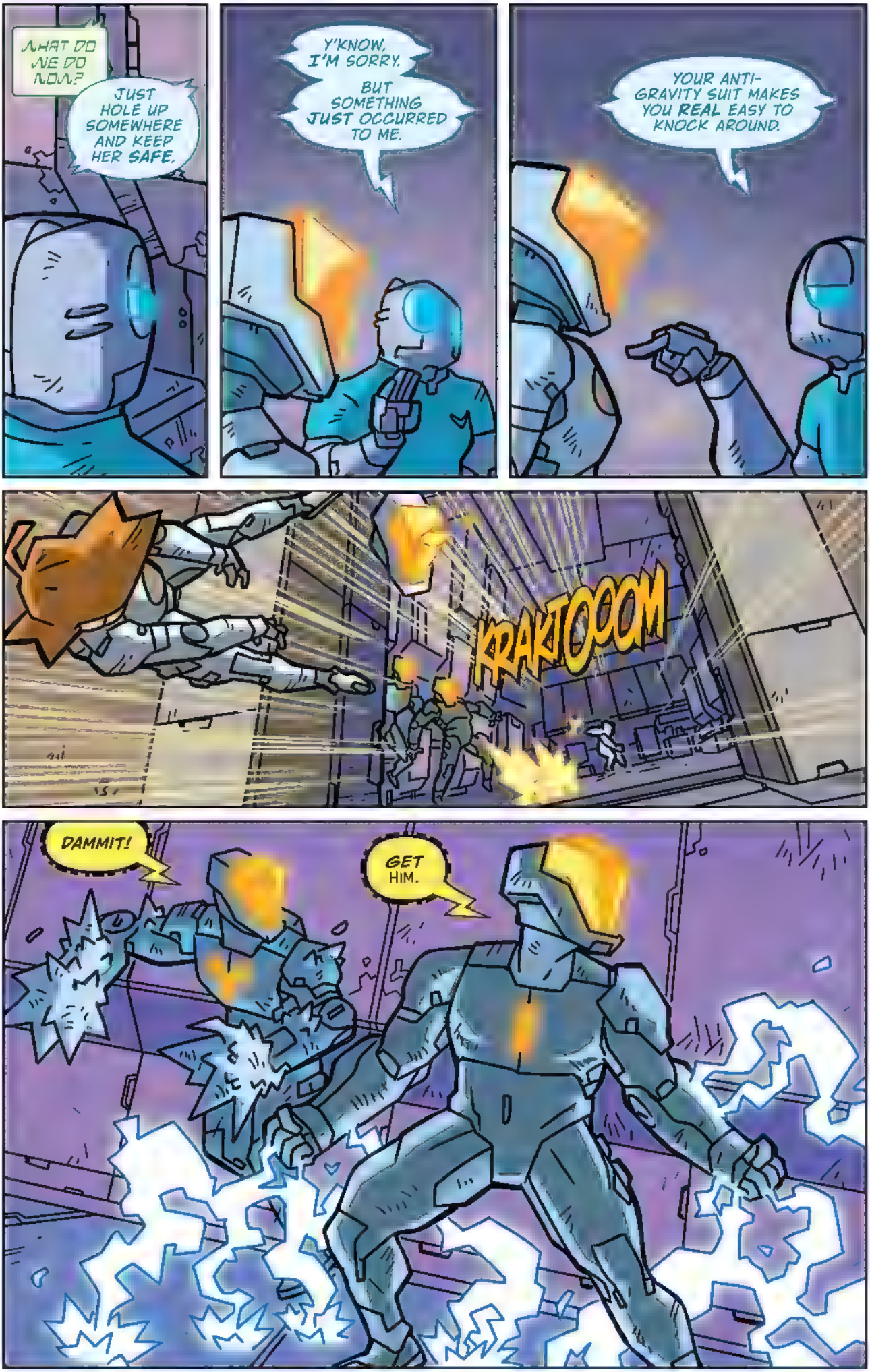

HELLO?
BAD GUYS?
WE'RE NOT THE BAD GUYS.
YEAH, KIDNAPPING AND BLACKMAIL ARE STANDARD GOOD GUY MOVES, SORRY.
NICE SUITS, BY THE WAY.
PERSONAL ANTI-GRAVITY FIELD.
TELLURIC SUPER CAPACITOR.
AND I'M GUESSING THAT'S SOME KINDA PROGRAMMABLE MATTER?

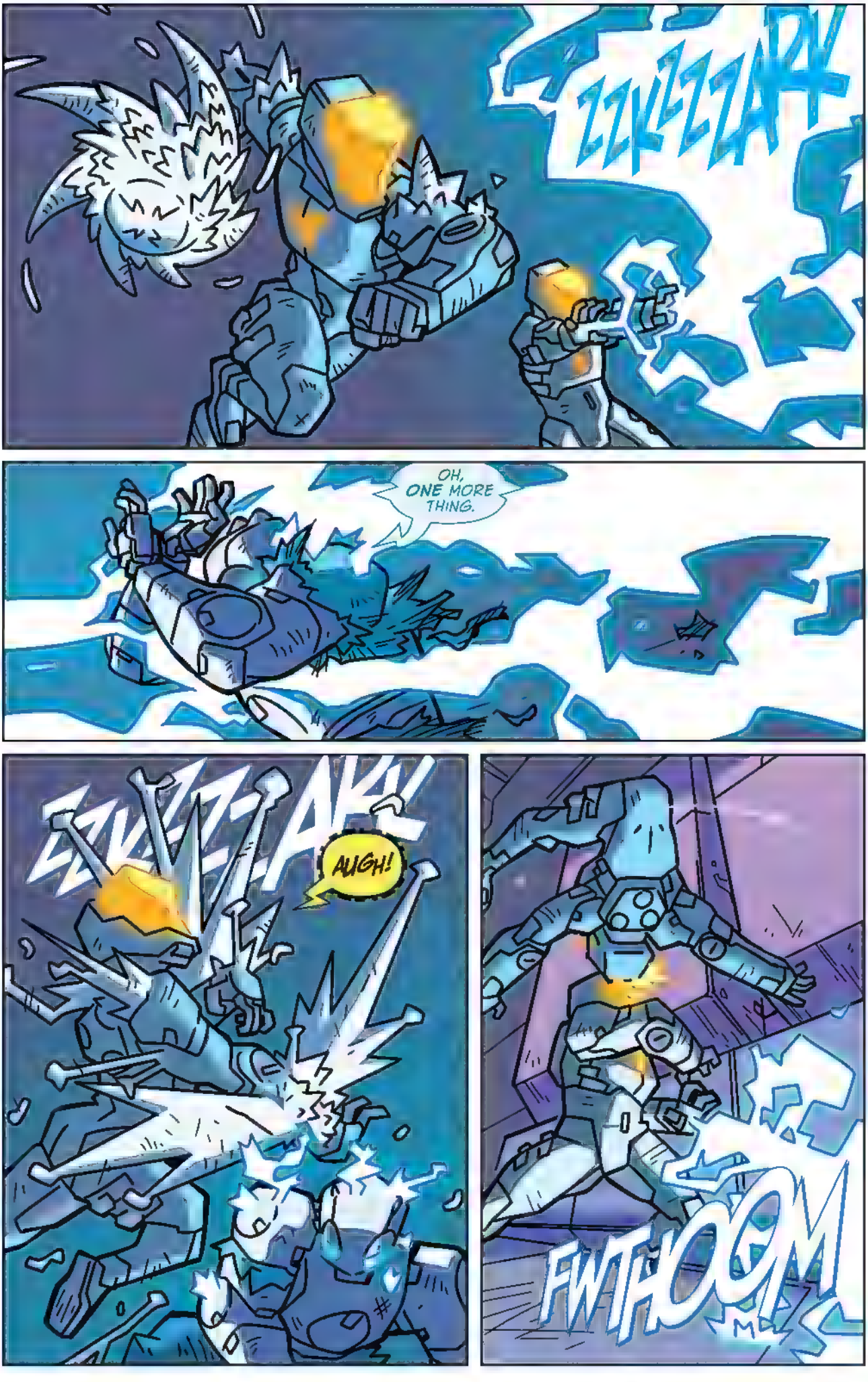

A MICRO-MAGNETIC CLOUD OF MY CUSTOM DESIGNED COMPUTATIONAL FERROFLUID.
IT'S THE FERRARI OF PROGRAMMABLE MATTER.
CLEVER.
OPEN THE VAULT AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW CLEVER.
WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR THE REST OF YOUR TEAM?
THEY'RE KEEPING DOCTOR ARMSTRONG SAFE.
AND THE SOONER WE DO THIS, THE SAFER SHE GETS.
IF I CAN TRACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM THEN I CAN FIND DOCTOR ARMSTRONG.

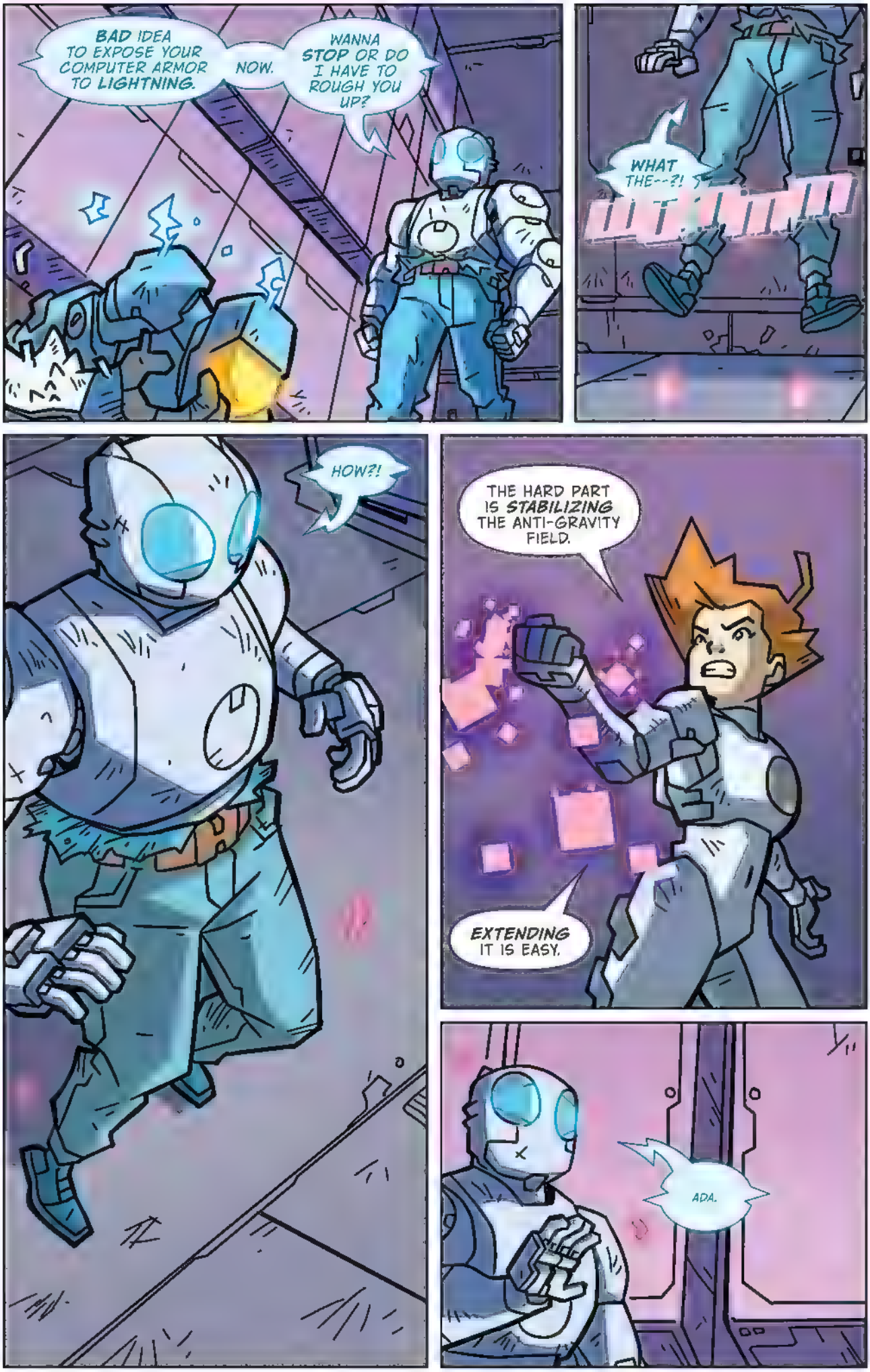
THERMAL TRACE?
NO, TOO MUCH ATMOSPHERIC INTERFERENCE.
OF COURSE!
THE ANT.-GRAVITY SUIT!
I CAN IMPROVISE THE DRONES INTO A LASER INTERFEROMETER TO TRACK RECENT KALUZA-KLEIN DEFORMATIONS!
I THINK
GO ON.
THERE.
RMMMMM

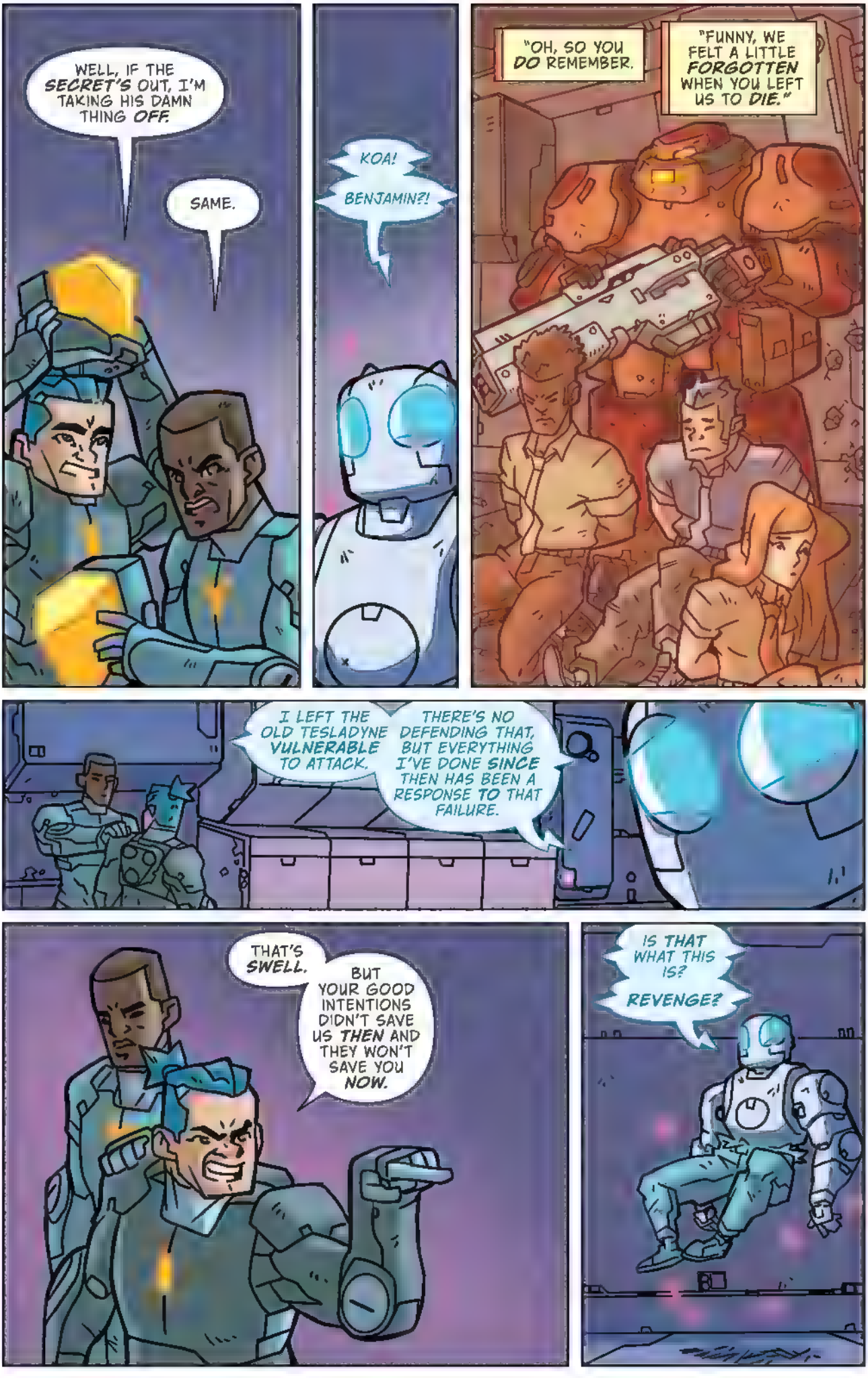

ANYONE!
HELP!
NO ONE'S OUT THERE.
KRAK!
AHH!
HI I'M ALAN.
DOCTOR ARMSTRONG, I PRESUME.
UM, ALAN? WHAT ARE YOU?
AN AUTOMATIC LEARNING ALGORITHM NETWORK, BUT I DON'T LET THAT DEFINE WHO I AM.
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

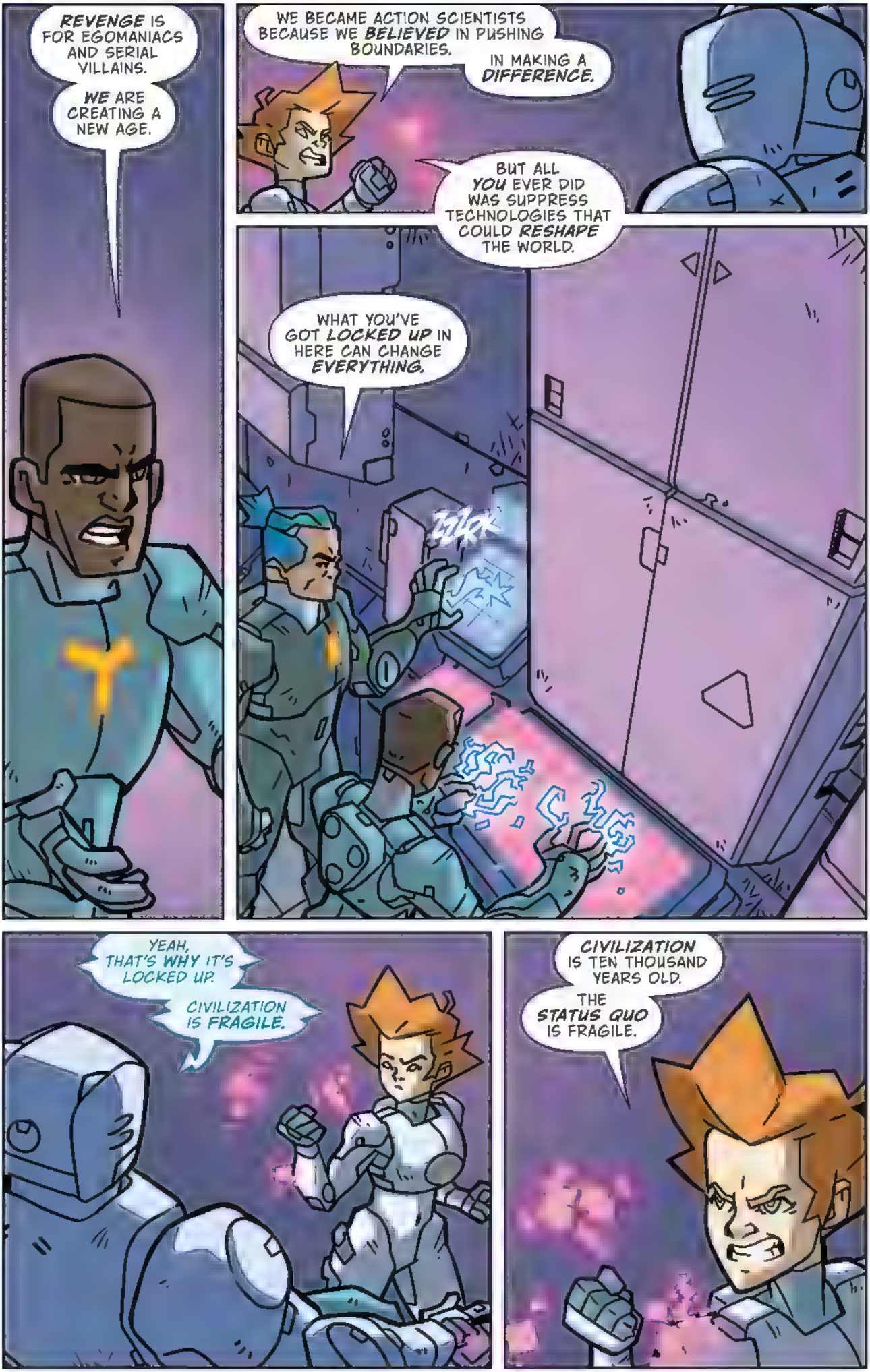

THEY DESTROYED MY PHONE. CAN YOU CALL FOR HELP?
YES. BUT IT WILL TAKE HOURS TO ORGANIZE AND TRANSPORT A SUITABLE RESPONSE.
THEY CAN EASILY KILL ALL OF US IN THAT TIME.
NOT IDEAL.
OKAY, THEY BLEW UP BOTH PLANES.
DO YOU KNOW OF ANOTHER WAY OFF THE ISLAND?
NO
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF I DID?
I FEEL LIKE THIS RESCUE COULD BE GOING BETTER.
WHAT WE LACK IN OPTIONS AND RESOURCES, WE MAKE UP WITH HEART.
YOU'VE AMASSED A COLLECTION OF THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WORLD.
IT'S NOT A COLLECTION. I'M CONTAINING THEM.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE?
I'VE GOT DOCTOR ARMSTRONG. THEY WERE BLUFFING ABOUT THE BOMB!

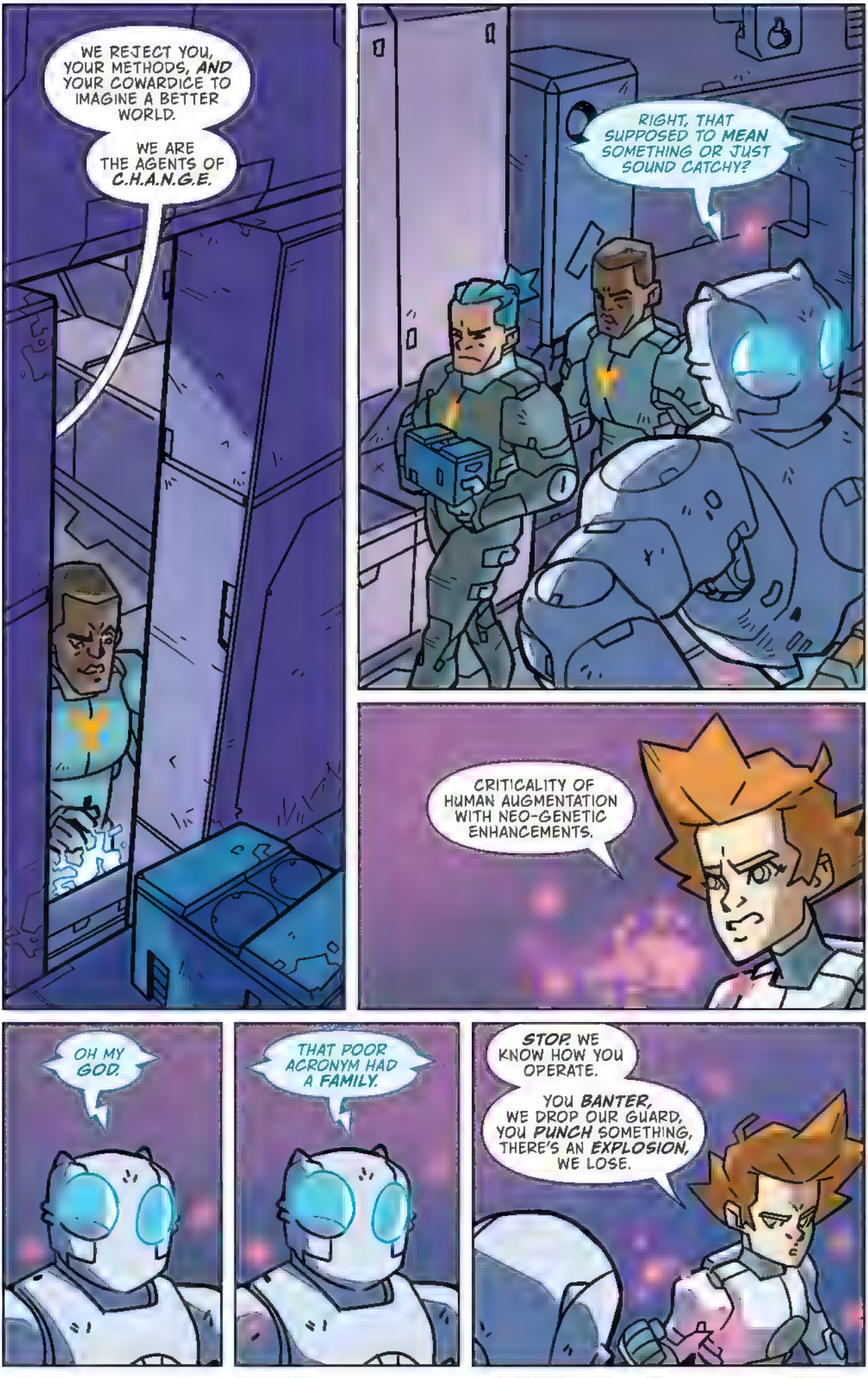

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
JUST HOLE UP SOMEWHERE AND KEEP HER SAFE.
Y'KNOW, I'M SORRY.
BUT SOMETHING JUST OCCURRED TO ME.
YOUR ANTI-GRAVITY SUIT MAKES YOU REAL EASY TO KNOCK AROUND.
KRAKOOOM
DAMMIT!
GET HIM.

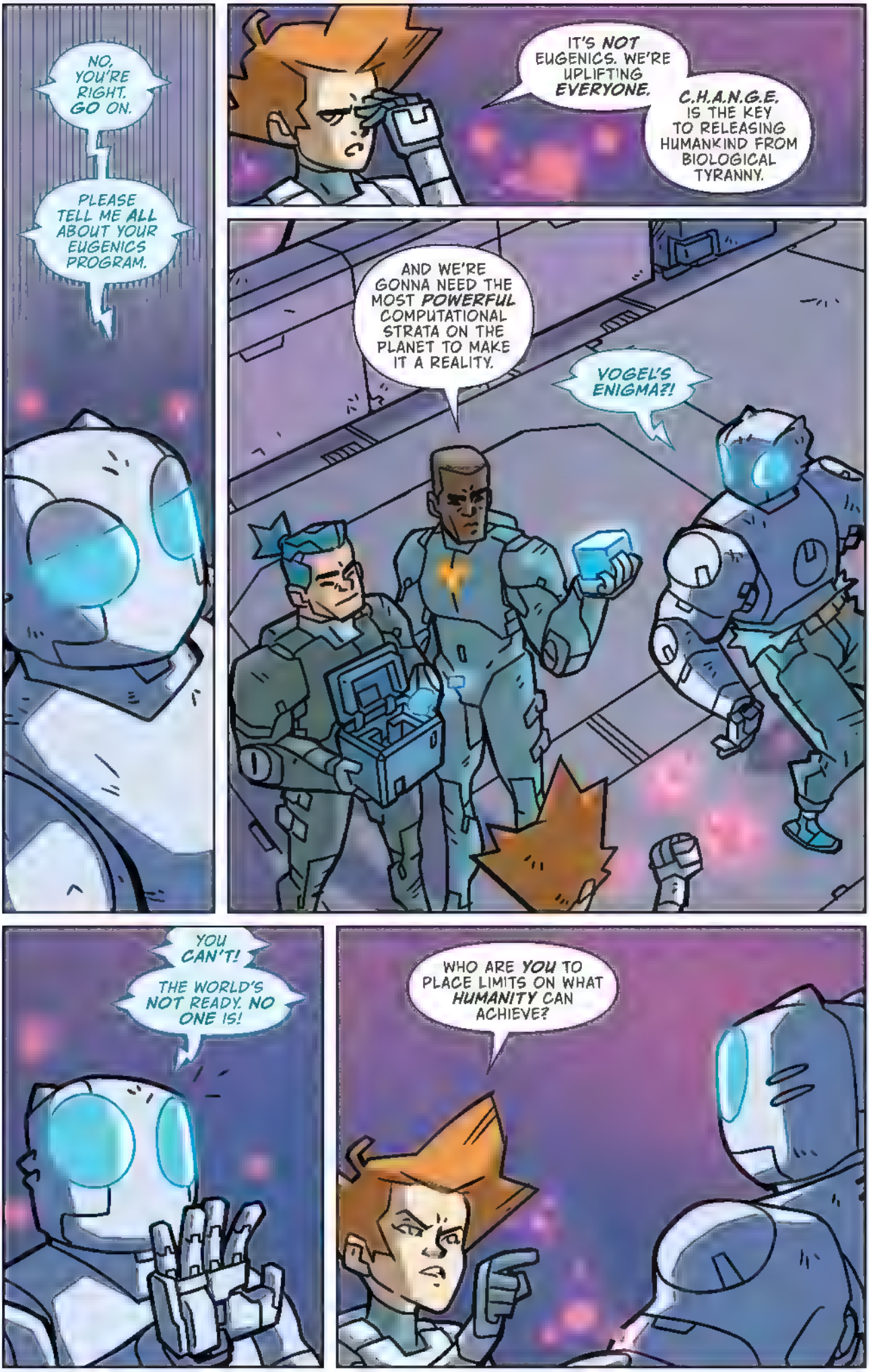

ZZKZZAP!
OH, ONE MORE THING.
ZWAK!
AUGH!
FWTHOOM

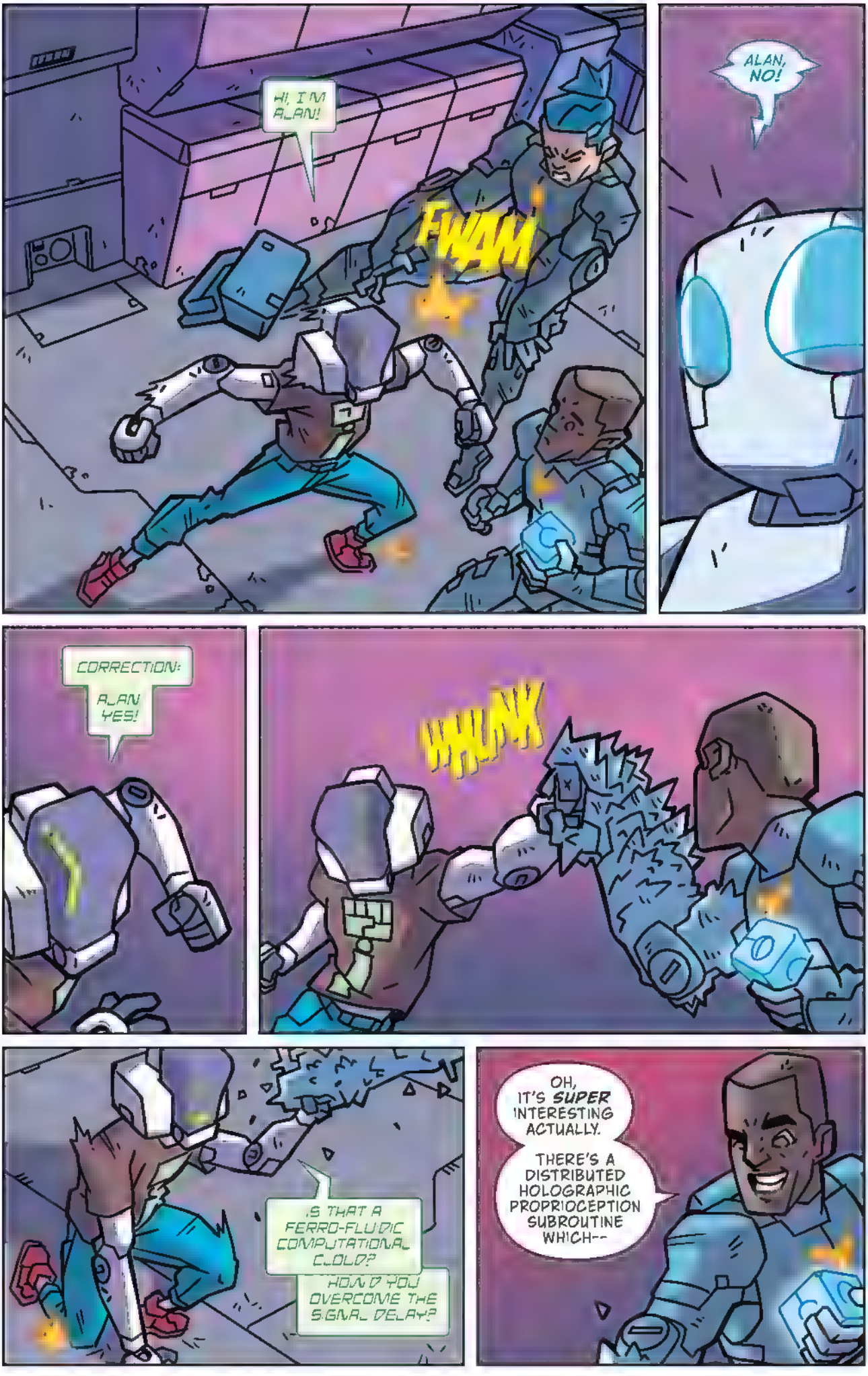

BAD IDEA TO EXPOSE YOUR COMPUTER ARMOR TO LIGHTNING.
NOW.
WANNA STOP OR DO I HAVE TO ROUGH YOU UP?
WHAT THE--?!
HOW?!
THE HARD PART IS STABILIZING THE ANTI-GRAVITY FIELD.
EXTENDING IT IS EASY.
ADA.

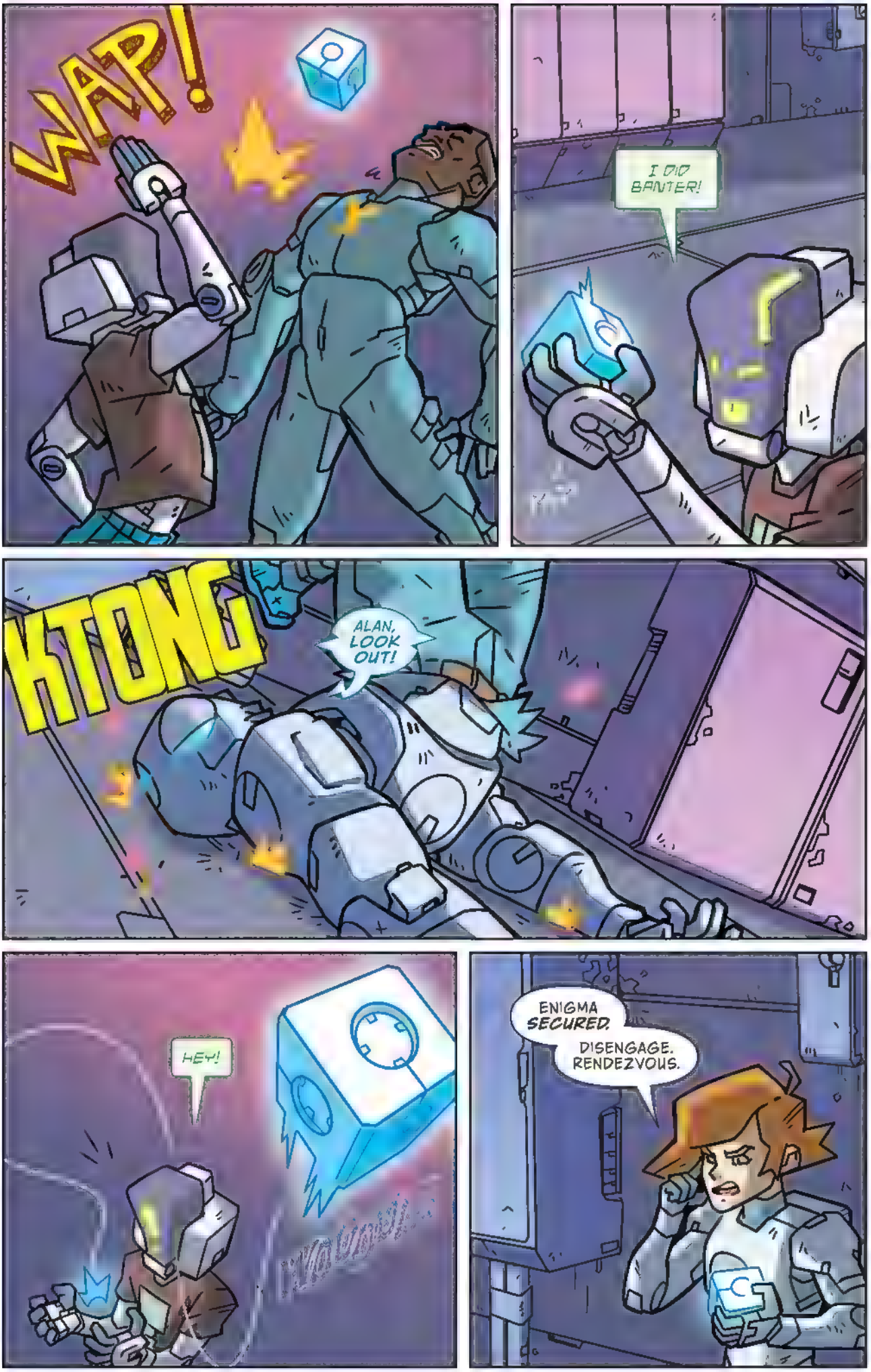

WELL, IF THE SECRET'S OUT, I'M TAKING HIS DAMN THING OFF.
SAME.
KOA!
BENJAMIN?!
"OH, SO YOU DO REMEMBER.
"FUNNY, WE FELT A LITTLE FORGOTTEN WHEN YOU LEFT US TO DIE."
I LEFT THE OLD TESLADYNE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK.
THERE'S NO DEFENDING THAT, BUT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE SINCE THEN HAS BEEN A RESPONSE TO THAT FAILURE.
THAT'S SWELL.
BUT YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS DIDN'T SAVE US THEN AND THEY WON'T SAVE YOU NOW.
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?
REVENGE?


REVENGE IS FOR EGOMANIACS AND SERIAL VILLAINS.
WE ARE CREATING A NEW AGE.
WE BECAME ACTION SCIENTISTS BECAUSE WE BELIEVED IN PUSHING BOUNDARIES.
IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
BUT ALL YOU EVER DID WAS SUPPRESS TECHNOLOGIES THAT COULD RESHAPE THE WORLD.
WHAT YOU'VE GOT LOCKED UP IN HERE CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.
ZZZKK
YEAH, THAT'S WHY IT'S LOCKED UP.
CIVILIZATION IS FRAGILE.
CIVILIZATION IS TEN THOUSAND YEARS OLD.
THE STATUS QUO IS FRAGILE.


WE REJECT YOU, YOUR METHODS, AND YOUR COWARDICE TO IMAGINE A BETTER WORLD.
WE ARE THE AGENTS OF C.H.A.N.G.E.
RIGHT, THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN SOMETHING OR JUST SOUND CATCHY?
CRITICALITY OF HUMAN AUGMENTATION WITH NEO-GENETIC ENHANCEMENTS.
OH MY GOD.
THAT POOR ACRONYM HAD A FAMILY.
STOP. WE KNOW HOW YOU OPERATE.
YOU BANTER, WE DROP OUR GUARD, YOU PUNCH SOMETHING, THERE'S AN EXPLOSION, WE LOSE.


NO. YOU'RE RIGHT. GO ON.
PLEASE TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR EUGENICS PROGRAM.
IT'S NOT EUGENICS. WE'RE UPLIFTING EVERYONE.
C.H.A.N.G.E. IS THE KEY TO RELEASING HUMANKIND FROM BIOLOGICAL TYRANNY.
AND WE'RE GONNA NEED THE MOST POWERFUL COMPUTATIONAL STRATA ON THE PLANET TO MAKE IT A REALITY.
VOGEL'S ENIGMA?!
YOU CAN'T!
THE WORLD'S NOT READY. NO ONE IS!
WHO ARE YOU TO PLACE LIMITS ON WHAT HUMANITY CAN ACHIEVE?

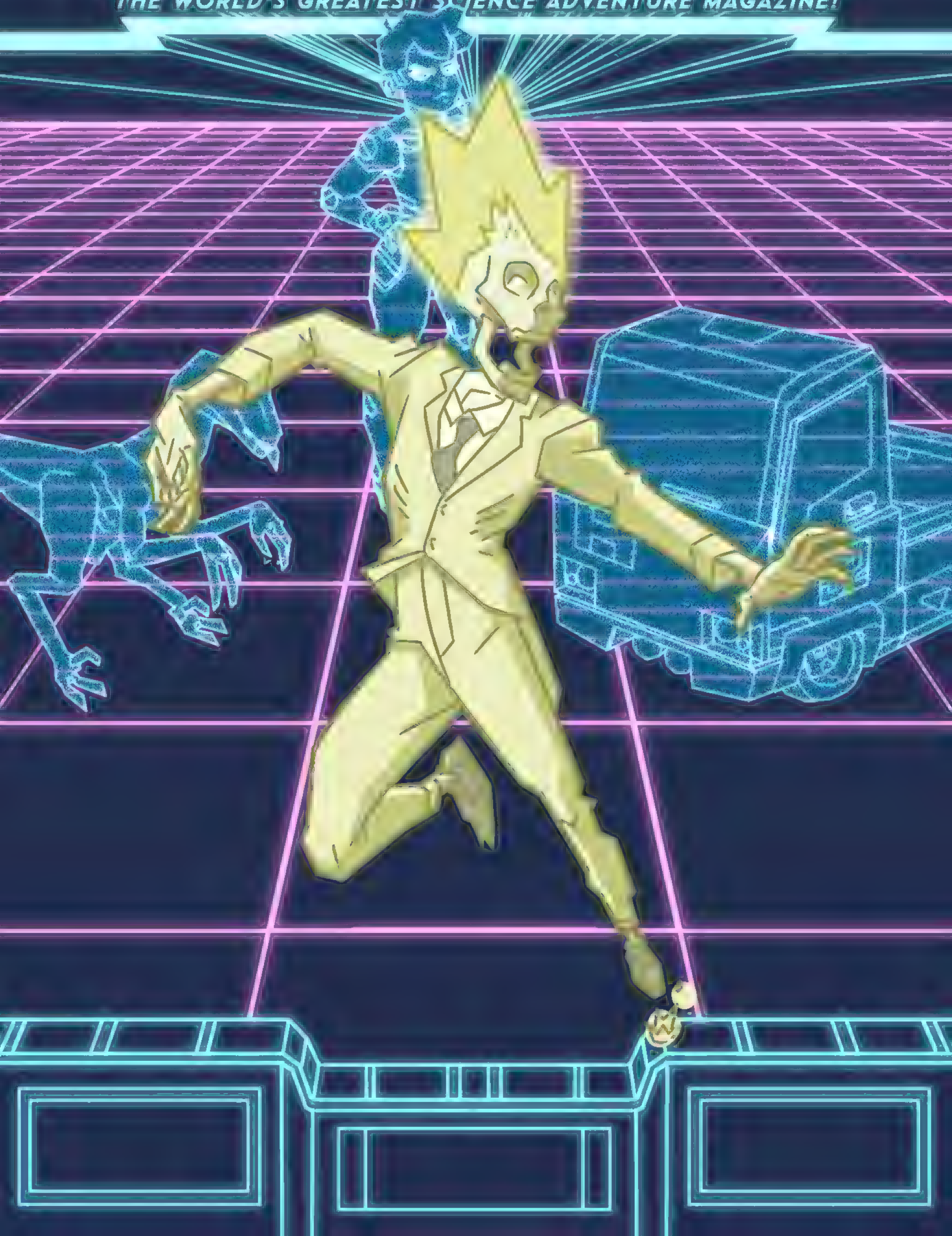

HI, I'M ALAN!
FWAM
ALAN, NO!
CORRECTION: ALAN YES!
WHUNK
IS THAT A FERRO-FLUIDIC COMPUTATIONAL CLOUD?
HOW'D YOU OVERCOME THE SIGNAL DELAY?
OH, IT'S SUPER INTERESTING ACTUALLY.
THERE'S A DISTRIBUTED HOLOGRAPHIC PROPRIOCEPTION SUBROUTINE WHICH--

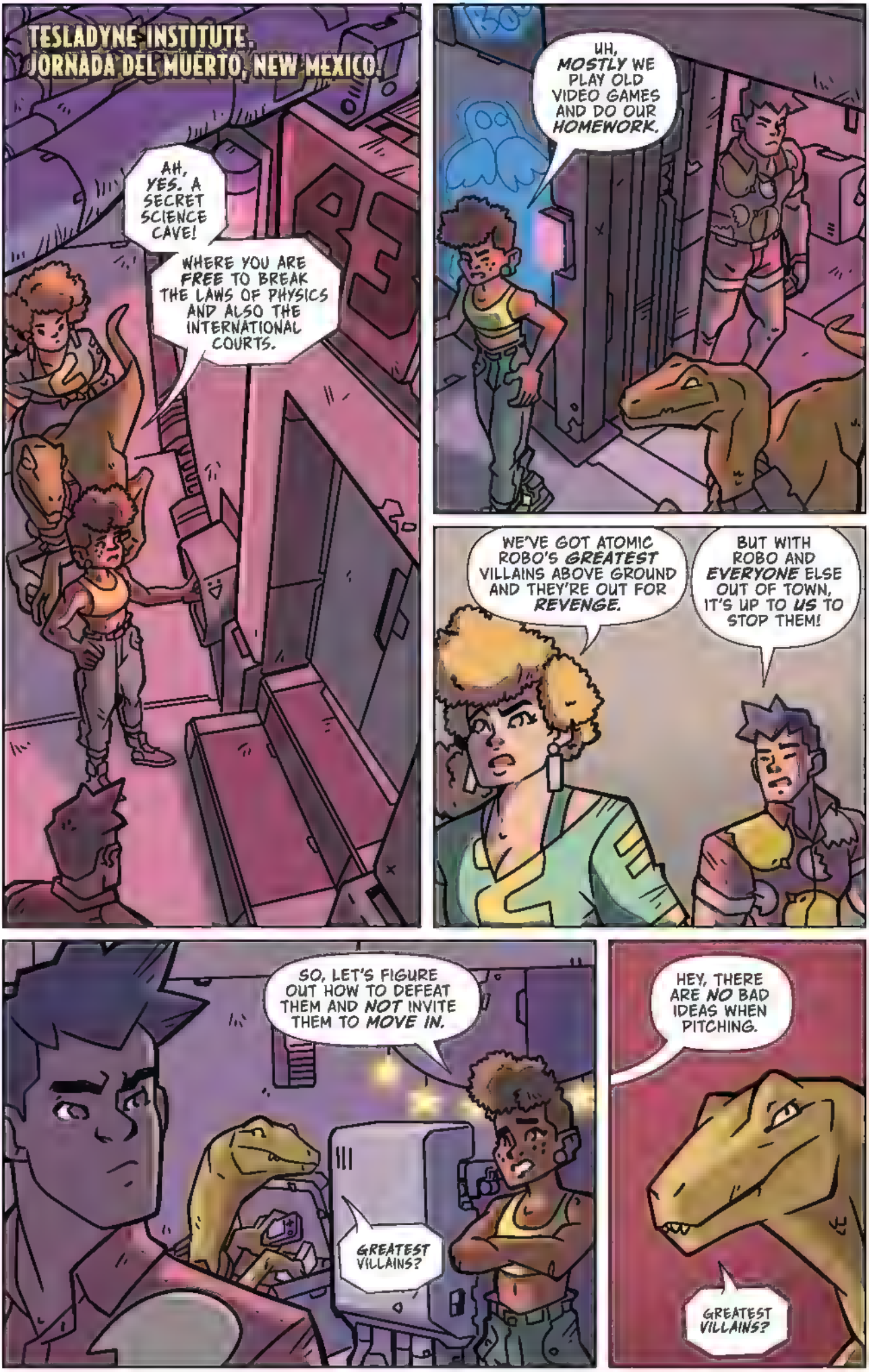

WAP!
I DID BANTER!
KTONG
ALAN, LOOK OUT!
HEY!
ENIGMA SECURED.
DISENGAGE. RENDEZVOUS.

DID HE CALL IT ALAN?
LIKE, NEARLY EXTERMINATED HUMANITY ALAN?
AND NOW ROBO'S ON ITS SIDE!
KZAPK
KOOOM
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY!
YOU WERE IN TROUBLE.
ARMSTRONG WAS IN TROUBLE
I'M FINE.
TERRIFIED. BUT FINE.
SO, WE GOT SUPERVILLAINS?
TO BE CONTINUED...

ATOMIC ROBO

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENCE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!

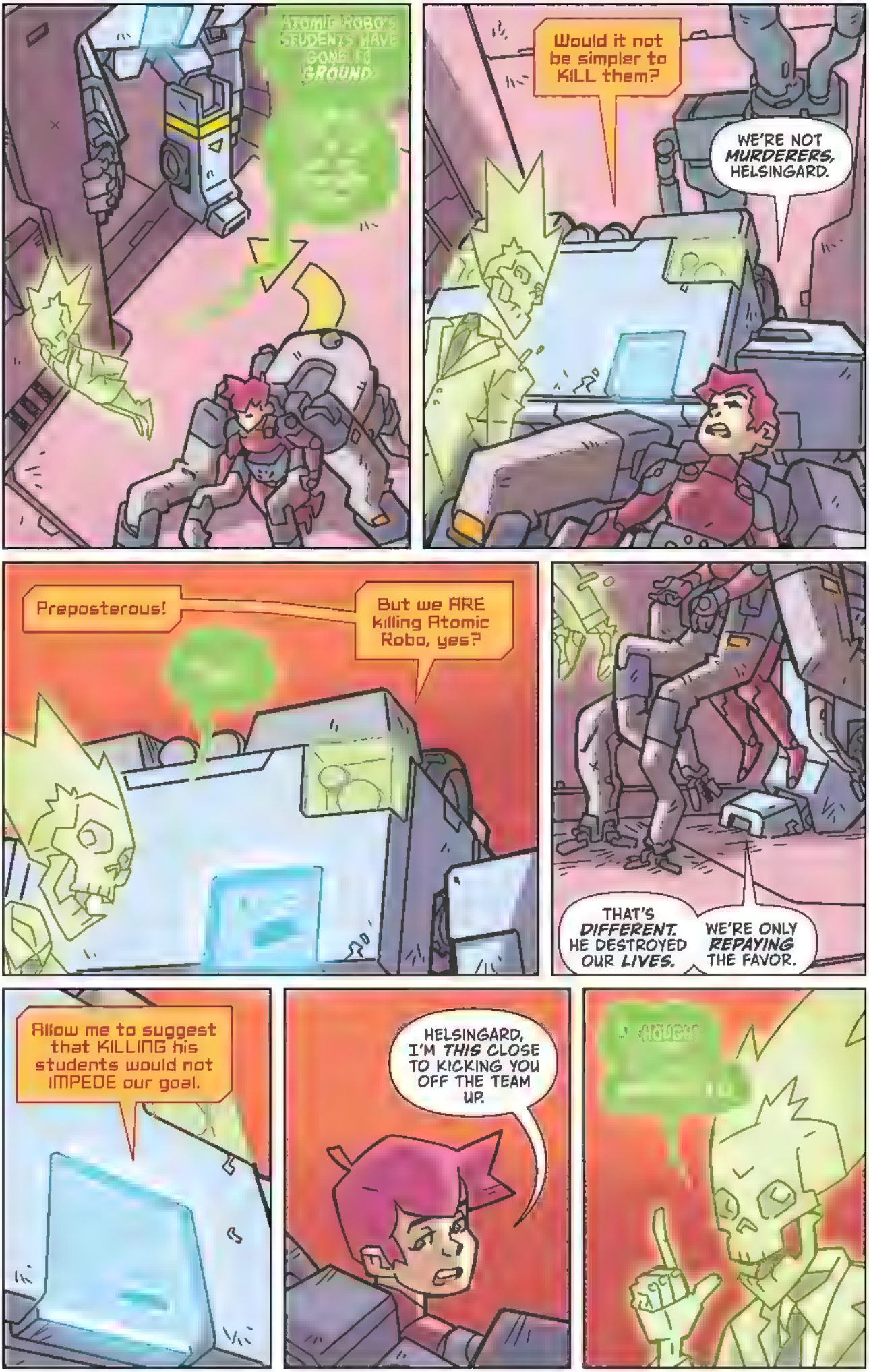


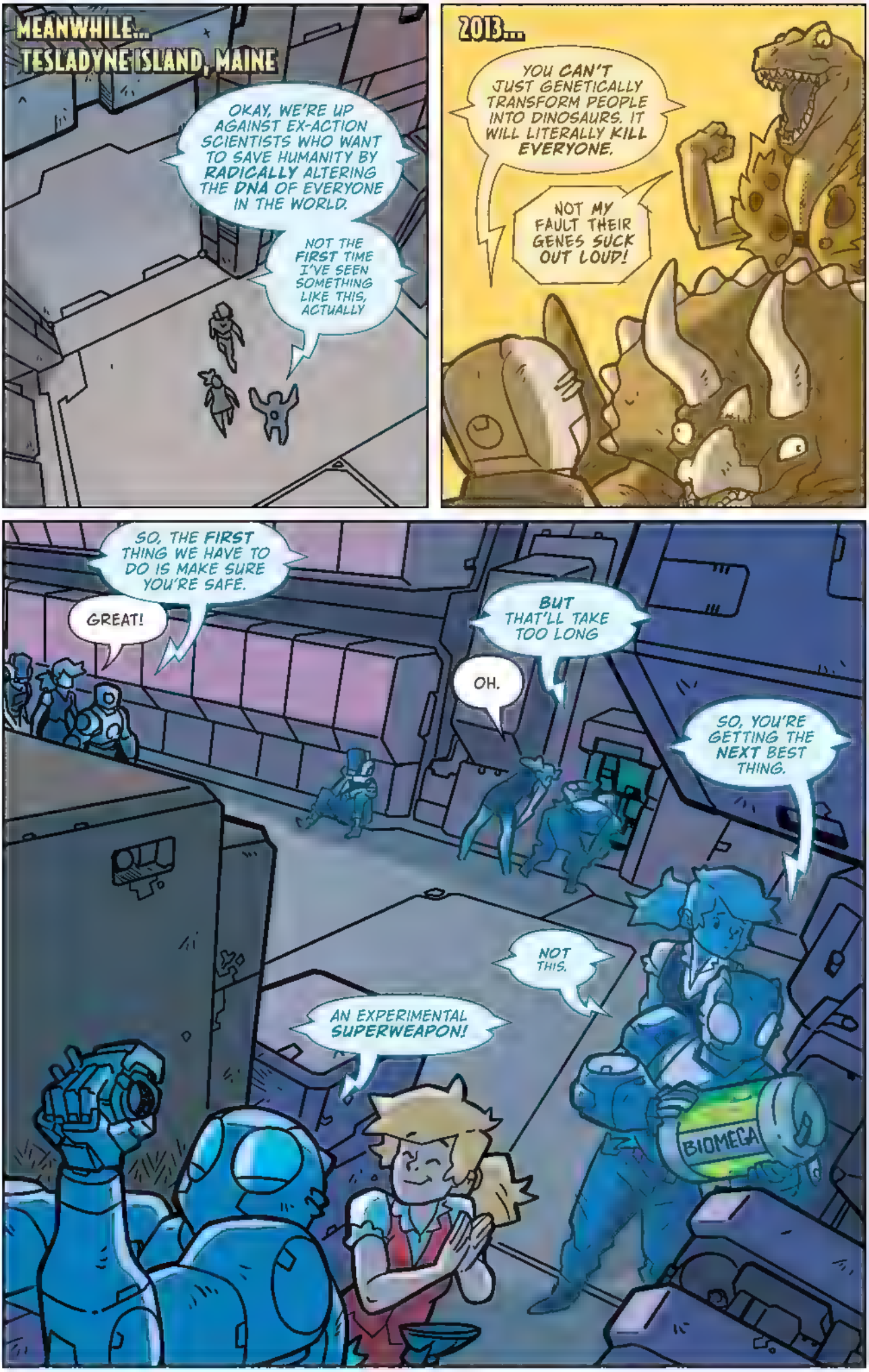

TESLADYNE INSTITUTE,
JORNADA DEL MUERTO, NEW MEXICO.
AH, YES. A SECRET SCIENCE CAVE!
WHERE YOU ARE FREE TO BREAK THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND ALSO THE INTERNATIONAL COURTS.
UH, MOSTLY WE PLAY OLD VIDEO GAMES AND DO OUR HOMEWORK.
WE'VE GOT ATOMIC ROBO'S GREATEST VILLAINS ABOVE GROUND AND THEY'RE OUT FOR REVENGE.
BUT WITH ROBO AND EVERYONE ELSE OUT OF TOWN, IT'S UP TO US TO STOP THEM!
SO, LET'S FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEFEAT THEM AND NOT INVITE THEM TO MOVE IN.
GREATEST VILLAINS?
HEY, THERE ARE NO BAD IDEAS WHEN PITCHING.
GREATEST VILLAINS?

OKAY, WELL, THE TUNNELS ARE OBVIOUSLY OUR SECRET WEAPON.
I GOT A LOT OF 'EM MAPPED OUT ALREADY.
MAPS
TUNNELS ARE GOOD, BUT AN EVEN BETTER SECRET WEAPON IS ALL THE SECRET WEAPONS.
YEAH, THERE'S WEIRD TECH STOCKPILED ALL OVER, RIGHT?
SILENCE, FIVES! A TEN IS SPEAKING.
I SHALL PROVE MYSELF TO BE ATOMIC ROBO'S GREATEST VILLAIN BY DEFEATING THE BUFFOONS FOR YOU.
mrf!
I MEAN, WE GOT THIS, BUT OKAY.
YEAH, COOL, GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!
THANK YOU, INTEGRAL PARTNERS.
YOUR SACRIFICES WILL NOT BE IN VAIN!
WAIT, WHAT?!

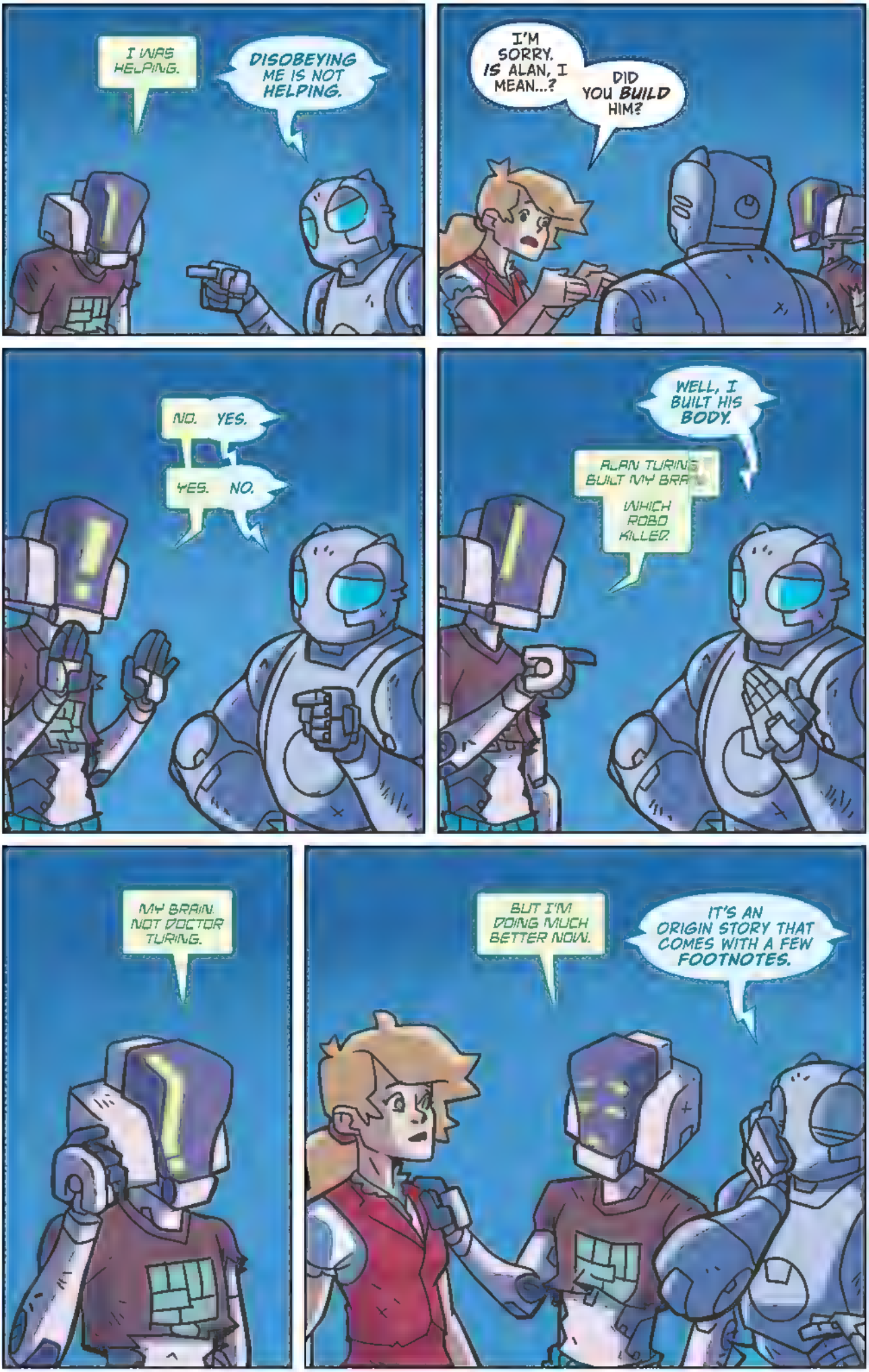
DON'T START.
They DARE to call this a "SNACKATERIA," yet I am reduced to procuring my OWN nutrient slurry!
LOOK, THEY CAN'T HIDE FOREVER.
NOT FOR THAT ACCURSED DOCTOR DINOSAUR!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE'D SHOW UP?
GLUG GLUG
YEAH, OKAY, BECAUSE THAT'S EASY.
HELLO, 1-800-CRAZYDINO? ONE TEAM UP, PLEASE. YES, I'LL HOLD.

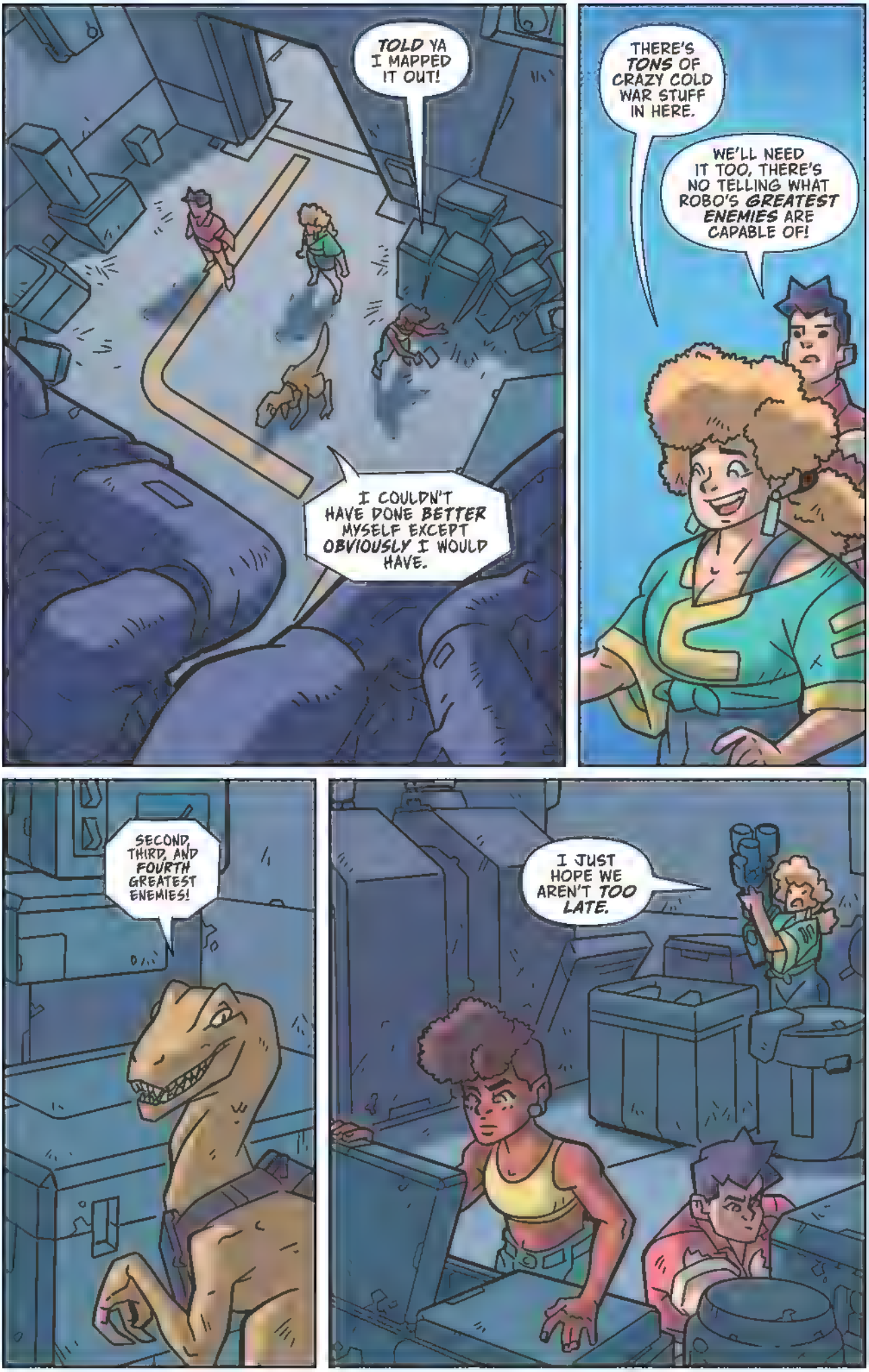
ANYWAY, IT'S A FEW GRAD STUDENTS AND A TALKING LIZARD.
THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THREE TURBO GENIUSES LIKE US!
BWAARP!
I MEAN, EVEN TWO GENIUSES IS A LOT.

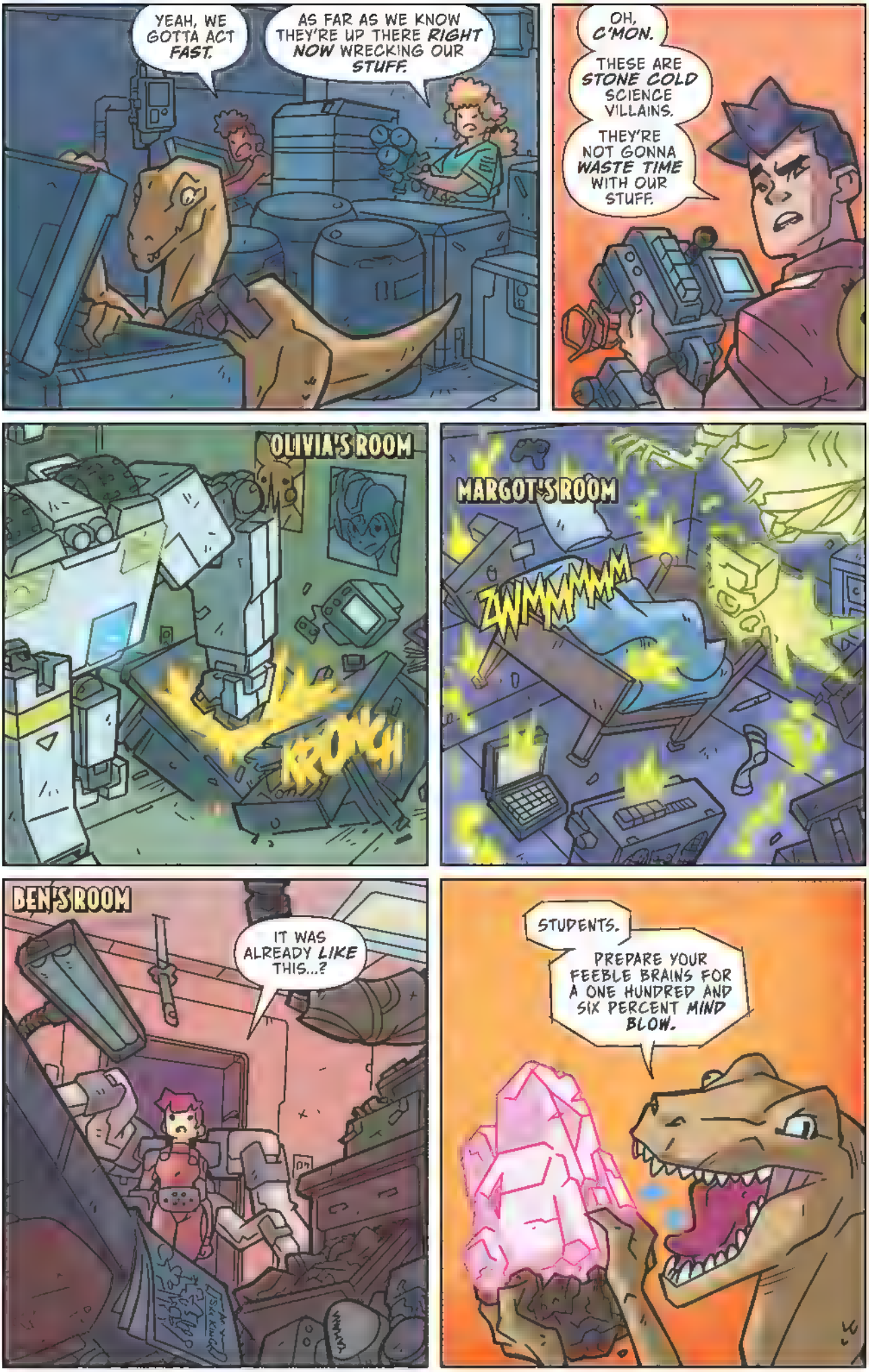

ATOMIC ROBO'S STUDENTS HAVE GONE TO GROUND
Would it not be simpler to KILL them?
WE'RE NOT MURDERERS, HELSINGARD.
Preposterous!
But we ARE killing Atomic Robo, yes?
THAT'S DIFFERENT. HE DESTROYED OUR LIVES.
WE'RE ONLY REPAYING THE FAVOR.
Allow me to suggest that KILLING his students would not IMPEDE our goal.
HELSINGARD, I'M THIS CLOSE TO KICKING YOU OFF THE TEAM UP.
KNOCK

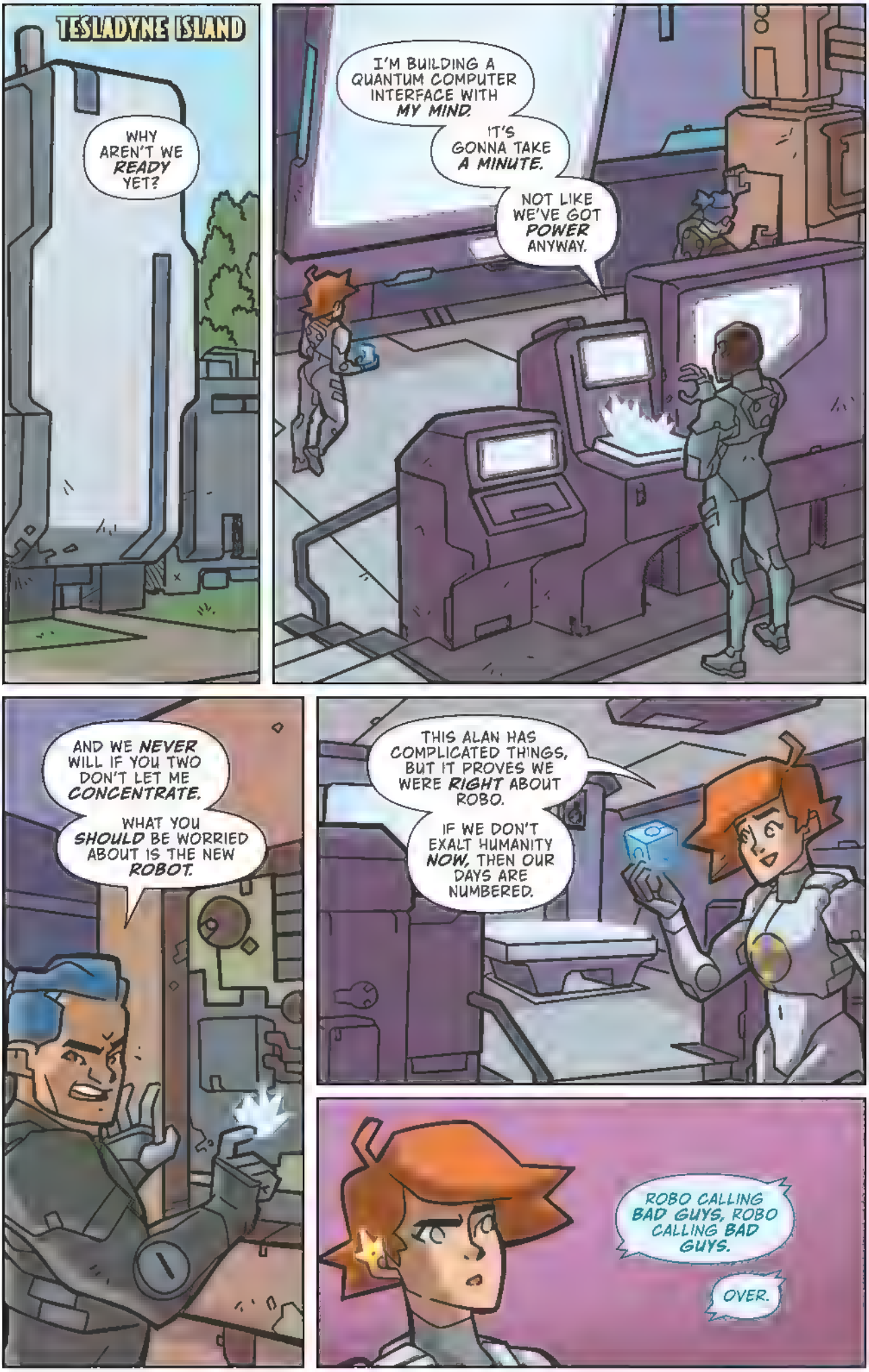

MEANWHILE...
TESLADYNE ISLAND, MAINE
OKAY, WE'RE UP AGAINST EX-ACTION SCIENTISTS WHO WANT TO SAVE HUMANITY BY RADICALLY ALTERING THE DNA OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD.
NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS, ACTUALLY
2013...
YOU CAN'T JUST GENETICALLY TRANSFORM PEOPLE INTO DINOSAURS. IT WILL LITERALLY KILL EVERYONE.
NOT MY FAULT THEIR GENES SUCK OUT LOUD!
SO, THE FIRST THING WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE.
GREAT!
BUT THAT'LL TAKE TOO LONG
OH.
SO, YOU'RE GETTING THE NEXT BEST THING.
NOT THIS.
AN EXPERIMENTAL SUPERWEAPON!
BIOMEGA

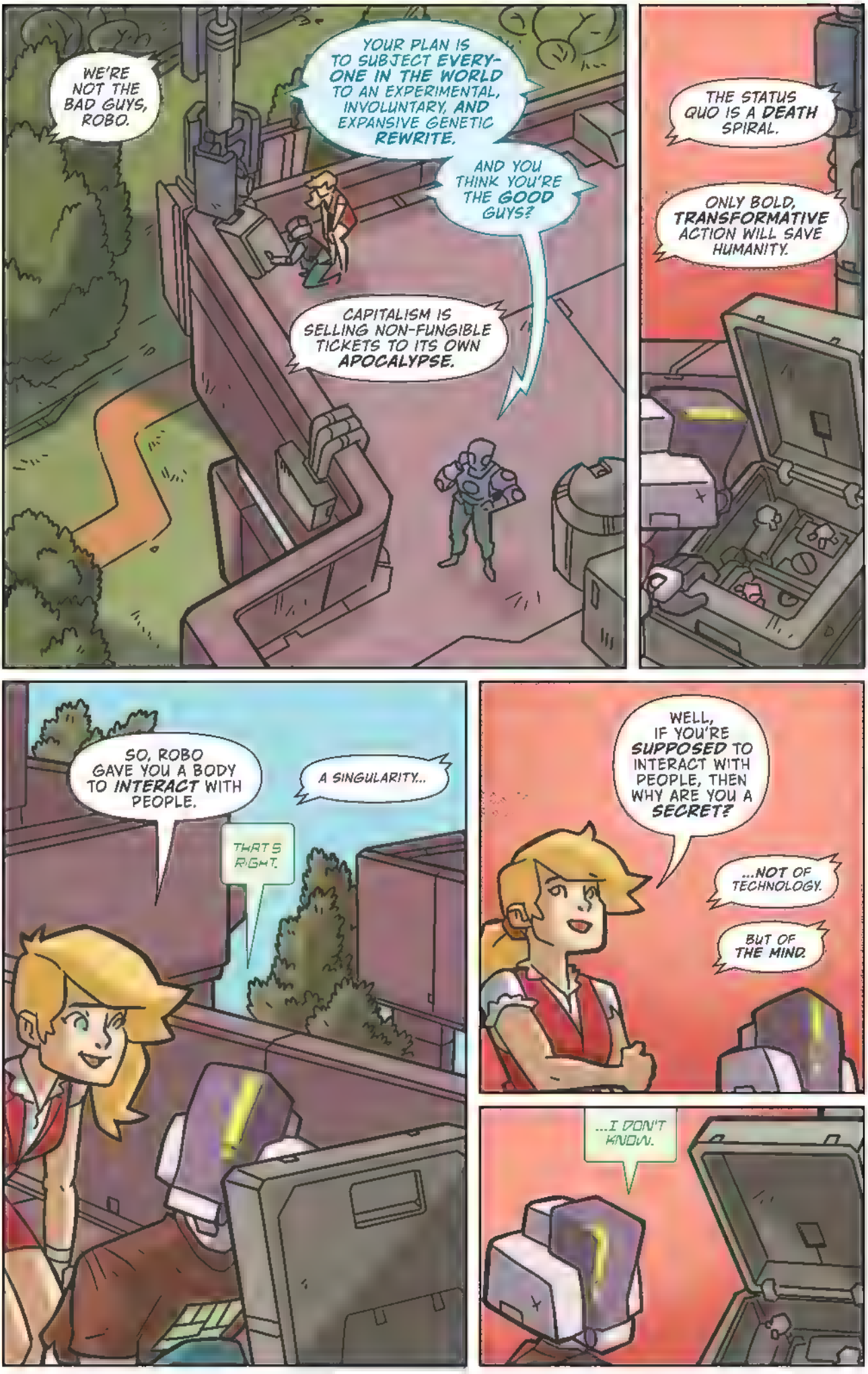
WE CALLED IT THE CONVERTAMATIC.
BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIFTIES.
IT CONVERTS INCOMING FORCE INTO OUTGOING INERTIA VIA ZORTH HIJINKS.
YOU'LL BE COMPARABLE TO ME AND ALAN IN TERMS OF STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.
BUT IT'S SAFE TO USE, RIGHT?
GOOD GOD, NO, WHY DO YOU THINK WE KEPT IT LOCKED UP?
BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IN HERE IS WAY WORSE, SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE USING.
NOW, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU DIDN'T DO WHAT I ASKED AND NOW BOTH OF YOU ARE IN DANGER.

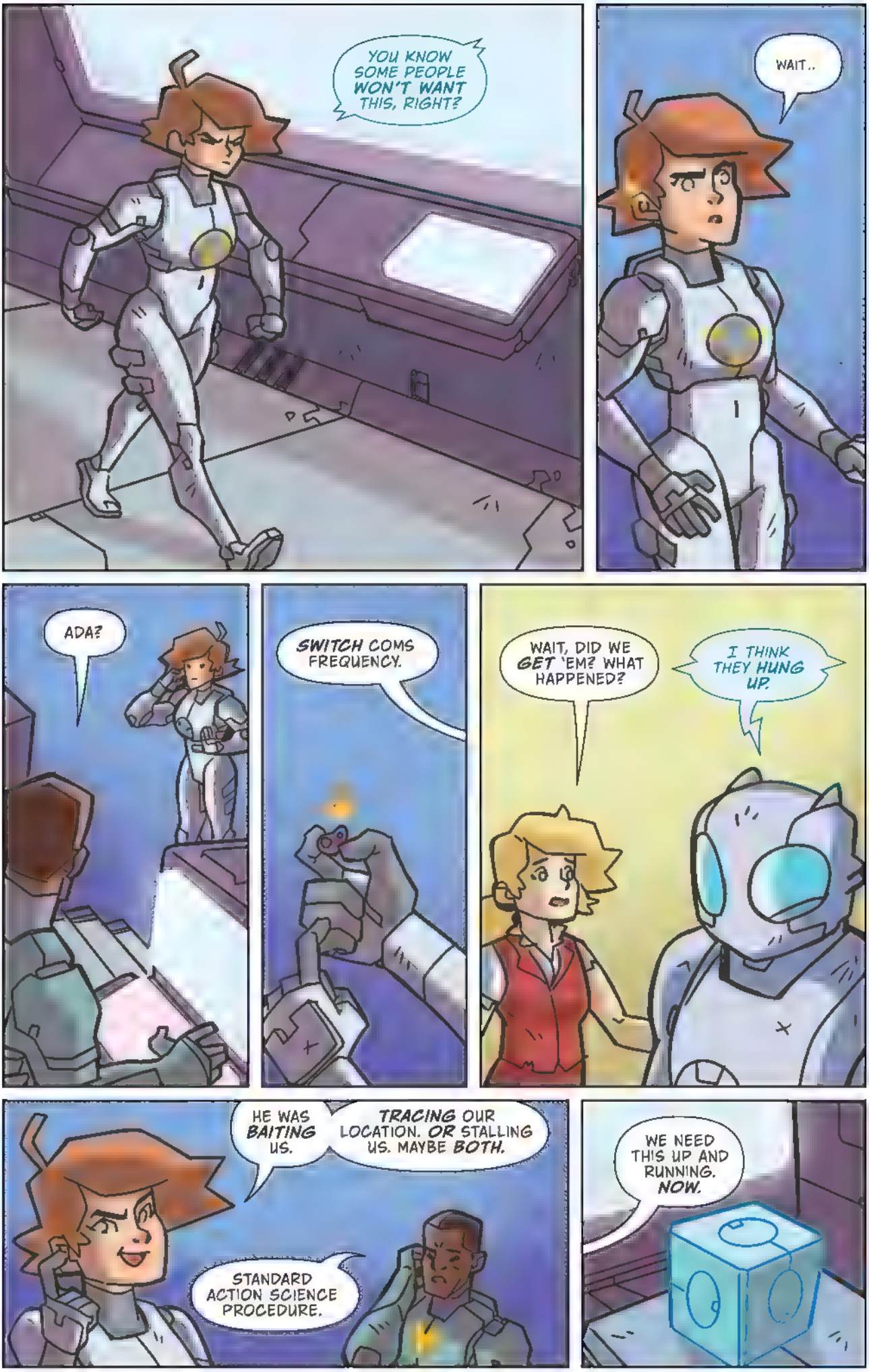

I WAS HELPING.
DISOBEYING ME IS NOT HELPING.
I'M SORRY. IS ALAN, I MEAN...?
DID YOU BUILD HIM?
NO. YES.
YES. NO.
WELL, I BUILT HIS BODY.
ALAN TURING BUILT MY BRA
WHICH ROBO KILLED.
MY BRAIN. NOT DOCTOR TURING.
BUT I'M DOING MUCH BETTER NOW.
IT'S AN ORIGIN STORY THAT COMES WITH A FEW FOOTNOTES.


TOLD YA I MAPPED IT OUT!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF EXCEPT OBVIOUSLY I WOULD HAVE.
THERE'S TONS OF CRAZY COLD WAR STUFF IN HERE.
WE'LL NEED IT TOO, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT ROBO'S GREATEST ENEMIES ARE CAPABLE OF!
SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH GREATEST ENEMIES!
I JUST HOPE WE AREN'T TOO LATE.


YEAH, WE GOTTA ACT FAST.
AS FAR AS WE KNOW THEY'RE UP THERE RIGHT NOW WRECKING OUR STUFF.
OH, C'MON.
THESE ARE STONE COLD SCIENCE VILLAINS.
THEY'RE NOT GONNA WASTE TIME WITH OUR STUFF.
OLIVIA'S ROOM
KRONCH
MARGOT'S ROOM
ZWMMMMM
BEN'S ROOM
IT WAS ALREADY LIKE THIS...?
STUDENTS.
PREPARE YOUR FEEBLE BRAINS FOR A ONE HUNDRED AND SIX PERCENT MIND BLOW.

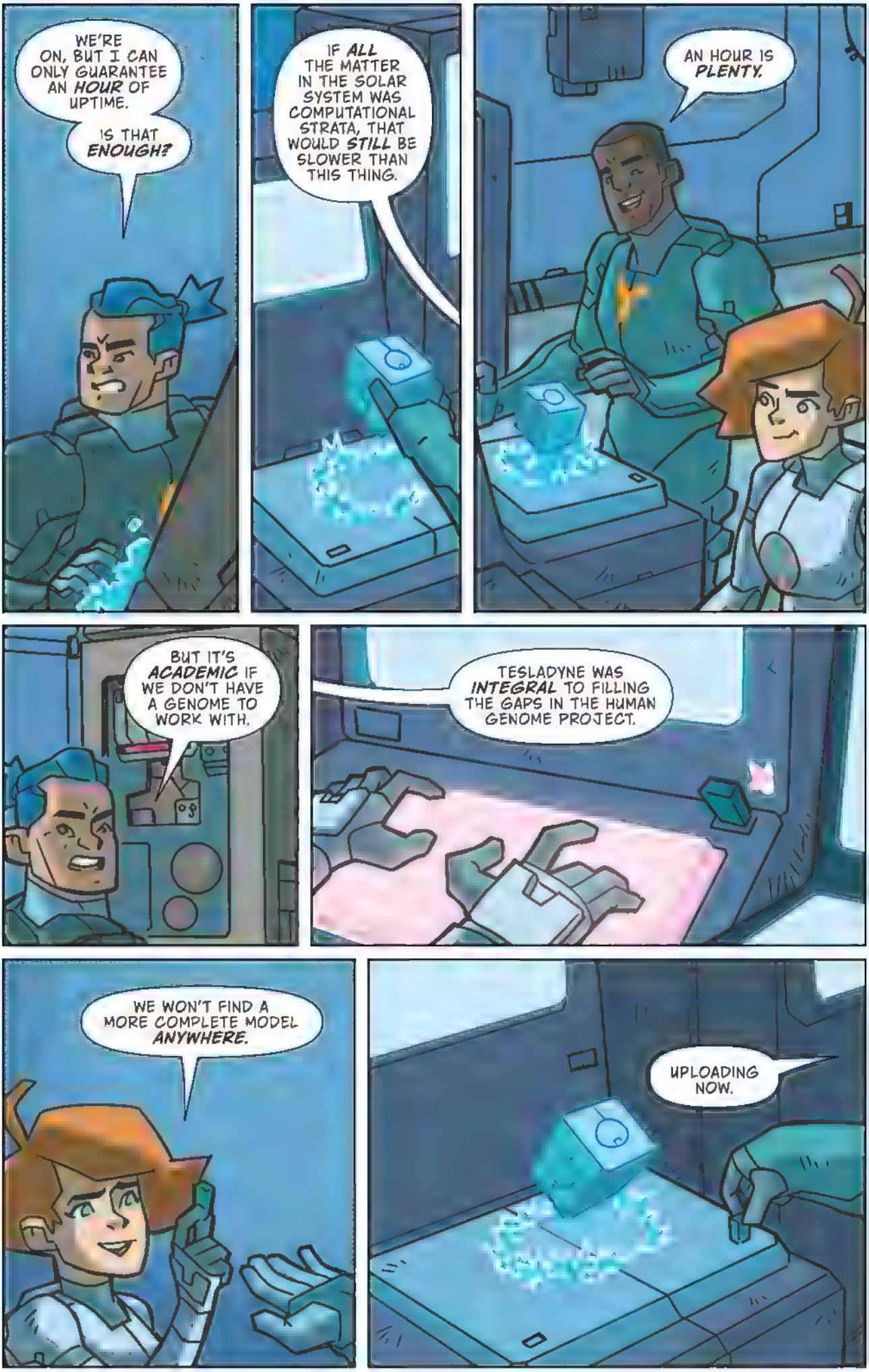

TESLADYNE ISLAND
WHY AREN'T WE READY YET?
I'M BUILDING A QUANTUM COMPUTER INTERFACE WITH MY MIND.
IT'S GONNA TAKE A MINUTE.
NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT POWER ANYWAY.
AND WE NEVER WILL IF YOU TWO DON'T LET ME CONCENTRATE.
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT IS THE NEW ROBOT.
THIS ALAN HAS COMPLICATED THINGS, BUT IT PROVES WE WERE RIGHT ABOUT ROBO.
IF WE DON'T EXALT HUMANITY NOW, THEN OUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED.
ROBO CALLING BAD GUYS, ROBO CALLING BAD GUYS.
OVER.


WE'RE NOT THE BAD GUYS, ROBO.
YOUR PLAN IS TO SUBJECT EVERY-ONE IN THE WORLD TO AN EXPERIMENTAL, INVOLUNTARY, AND EXPANSIVE GENETIC REWRITE.
AND YOU THINK YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS?
CAPITALISM IS SELLING NON-FUNGIBLE TICKETS TO ITS OWN APOCALYPSE.
THE STATUS QUO IS A DEATH SPIRAL.
ONLY BOLD, TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION WILL SAVE HUMANITY.
SO, ROBO GAVE YOU A BODY TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE.
A SINGULARITY...
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, IF YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE, THEN WHY ARE YOU A SECRET?
...NOT OF TECHNOLOGY.
BUT OF THE MIND.
...I DON'T KNOW.

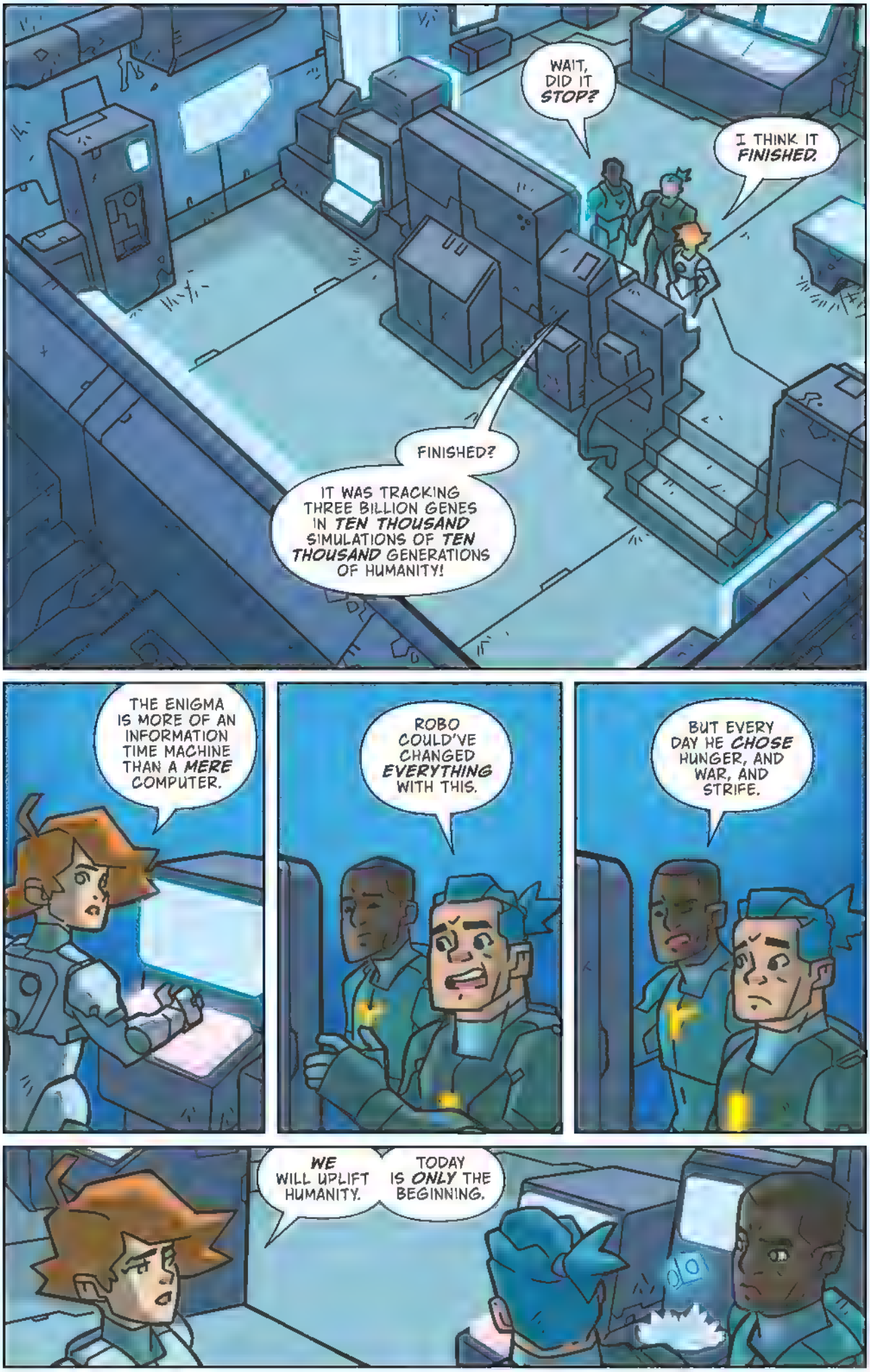

YOU KNOW SOME PEOPLE WON'T WANT THIS, RIGHT?
WAIT..
ADA?
SWITCH COMS FREQUENCY.
WAIT, DID WE GET 'EM? WHAT HAPPENED?
I THINK THEY HUNG UP.
HE WAS BAITING US.
TRACING OUR LOCATION. OR STALLING US. MAYBE BOTH.
STANDARD ACTION SCIENCE PROCEDURE.
WE NEED THIS UP AND RUNNING. NOW.

MEANWHILE...
A POSITRON COLLIDER WITH AN ELECTRO-CRYSTAL EMITTER WAND.
SHOULD NEUTRALIZE ODIC MANIFESTATIONS.
A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS SWARM OF CRYSTAL-BLADED RAZORANGS DIRECTED VIA AUGMENTED REALITY INTERFACE.
SO KINDA LIKE THAT KRULL MOVIE IF IT WENT CYBERPUNK.
AMPLIFIED CRYSTAL HARMONIC RESONANCE GAUNTLETS!
IN OTHER WORDS SUPER STRENGTH.
VRU
GUNS CAN BE A SUPERPOWER TOO!

HOLD UP, WE HAVE GUNS?!
WHY'D YOU MAKE US BUILD WEIRD GIZMOS WE DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND?!
UNDERSTANDING THEM WOULD ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN.
HOW IS THAT AN ANSWER?!
IF I QUESTIONED EVERY SINGLE IMPOSSIBLE THING THAT HAPPENED, I'D STILL BE IN THE LATE CRETACEOUS AND QUITE DEAD BY NOW.
HMM, YES.
REALLY MAKES YOU THINK.
NOW THEN!
ONWARD TO VICTORY!


WE'RE ON, BUT I CAN ONLY GUARANTEE AN *HOUR* OF UPTIME.
IS THAT *ENOUGH?*
IF *ALL* THE MATTER IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM WAS COMPUTATIONAL STRATA, THAT WOULD *STILL* BE SLOWER THAN THIS THING.
AN HOUR IS *PLENTY.*
BUT IT'S *ACADEMIC* IF WE DON'T HAVE A GENOME TO WORK WITH.
TESLADYNE WAS *INTEGRAL* TO FILLING THE GAPS IN THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT.
WE WON'T FIND A MORE COMPLETE MODEL *ANYWHERE.*
UPLOADING NOW.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD EXPAND OUR SEARCH PERIMETER?
NO, THE SIGNAL TRACE WAS SOLID.
THEY CAN'T BE FAR.
THERE.
SURGE OF ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY AHEAD.
EXOTIC BIOLOGY LAB. SHOULD'VE GUESSED.
OKAY, HOW WE DOIN' THIS?
LOUD OR REALLY LOUD?
UH.
I'M DOIN' THIS.
ALONE.
WHY'D YOU GIVE ME A SUPER WEAPON?
SO YOU WOULDN'T BE COMPLETELY DEFENSELESS IF EVERYTHING GOES WRONG.
WHICH, IF IT DOES, RUN AND HIDE.
THAT GOES FOR BOTH OF YOU.
AM I NOT TO "BUST HEADS?"
YOU'RE TO STAY PUT.
WELL, THAT'S EXTRA RUDE.


WAIT, DID IT STOP?
I THINK IT FINISHED.
FINISHED?
IT WAS TRACKING THREE BILLION GENES IN TEN THOUSAND SIMULATIONS OF TEN THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF HUMANITY!
THE ENIGMA IS MORE OF AN INFORMATION TIME MACHINE THAN A MERE COMPUTER.
ROBO COULD'VE CHANGED EVERYTHING WITH THIS.
BUT EVERY DAY HE CHOSE HUNGER, AND WAR, AND STRIFE.
WE WILL UPLIFT HUMANITY.
TODAY IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

WE CAN STILL WALK AWAY FROM THIS.
BEN, SEAL THE ENIGMA!
ZWRP
YOU HAVEN'T HURT ANYONE YET.
WE DON'T HAVE TO ESCALATE. YOU KNOW THAT.
KSHBOOM
THERE GOES THE SECURITY DEPOSIT!
ALAN?! STOP!
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY BEHIND!
I JUST WANT TO--

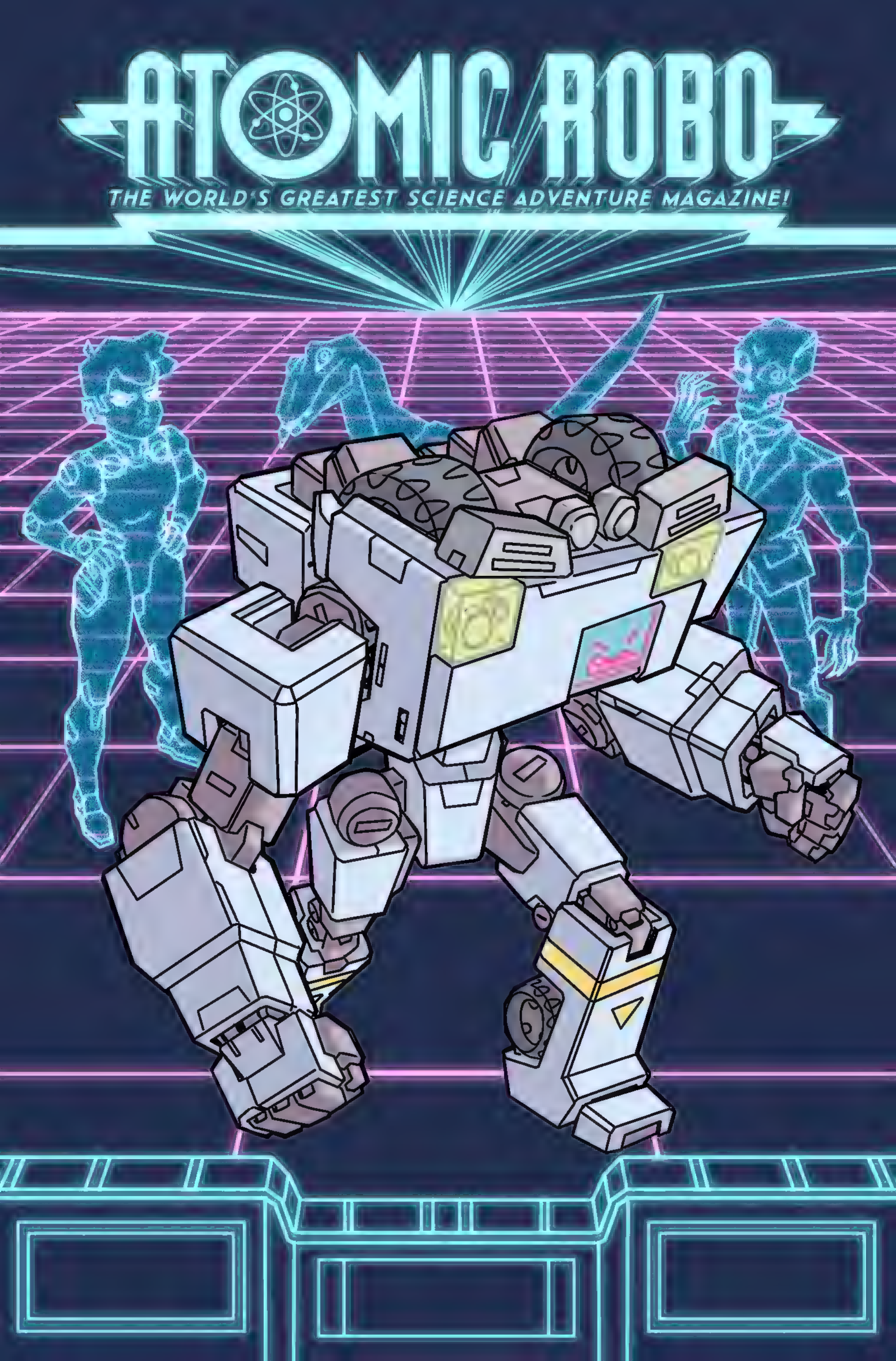
AND THIS'LL MAP OUT *EXACTLY* WHAT ALL THREE BILLION BASEPAIRS *DO?*
AND HOW TO CHANGE THEM.
I *KNOW* IT'LL WORK, I JUST CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT'LL WORK.
UH.
IS IT WORKING?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A *YES.*

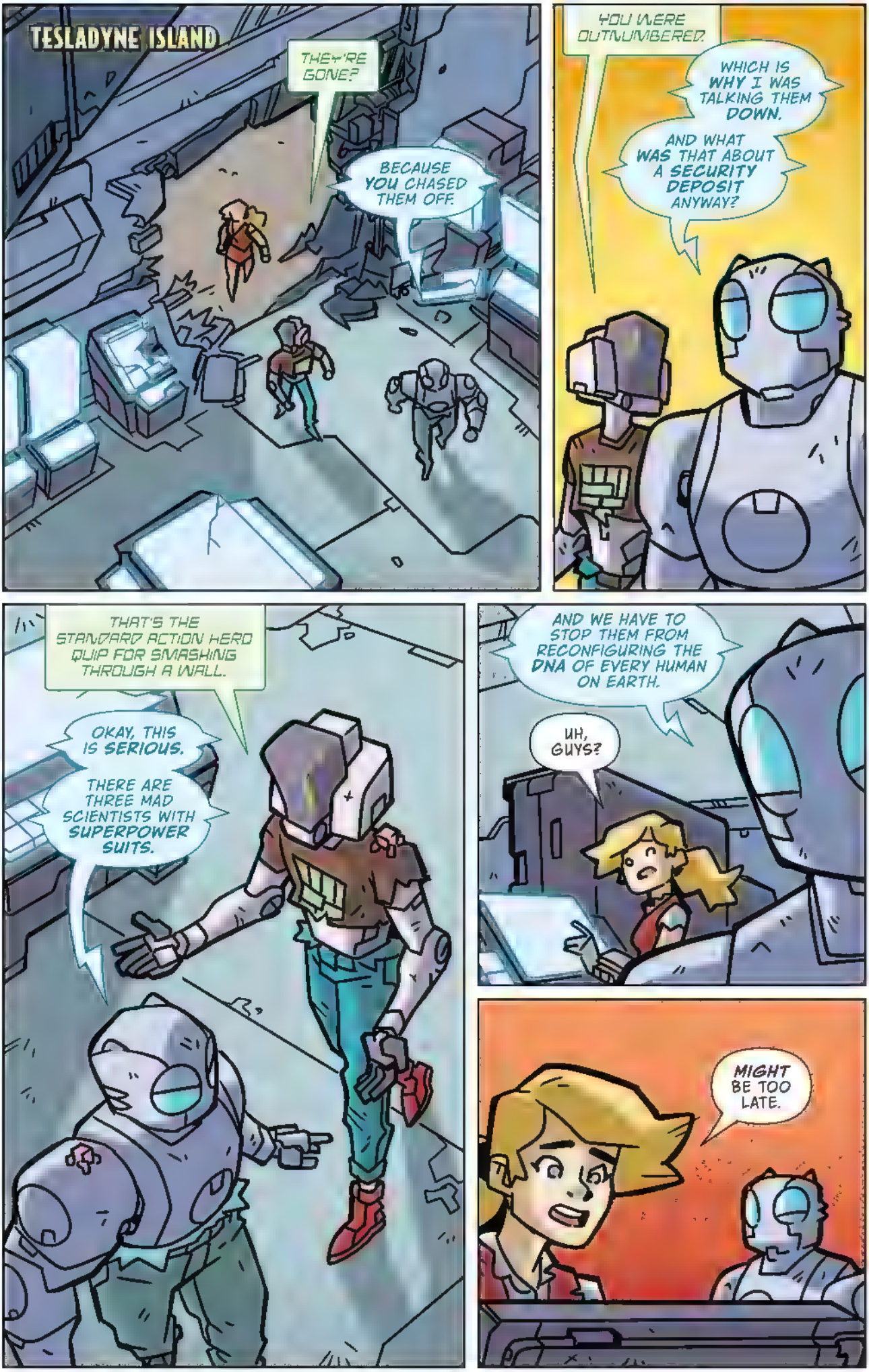
--TALK?
KRA-KAR!
OH DARN
WE DIDN'T WANT TO MISS--
--THE PARTY?
SKREET!
UH, OKAY.
SO, THAT ZORTH THING WORKS.

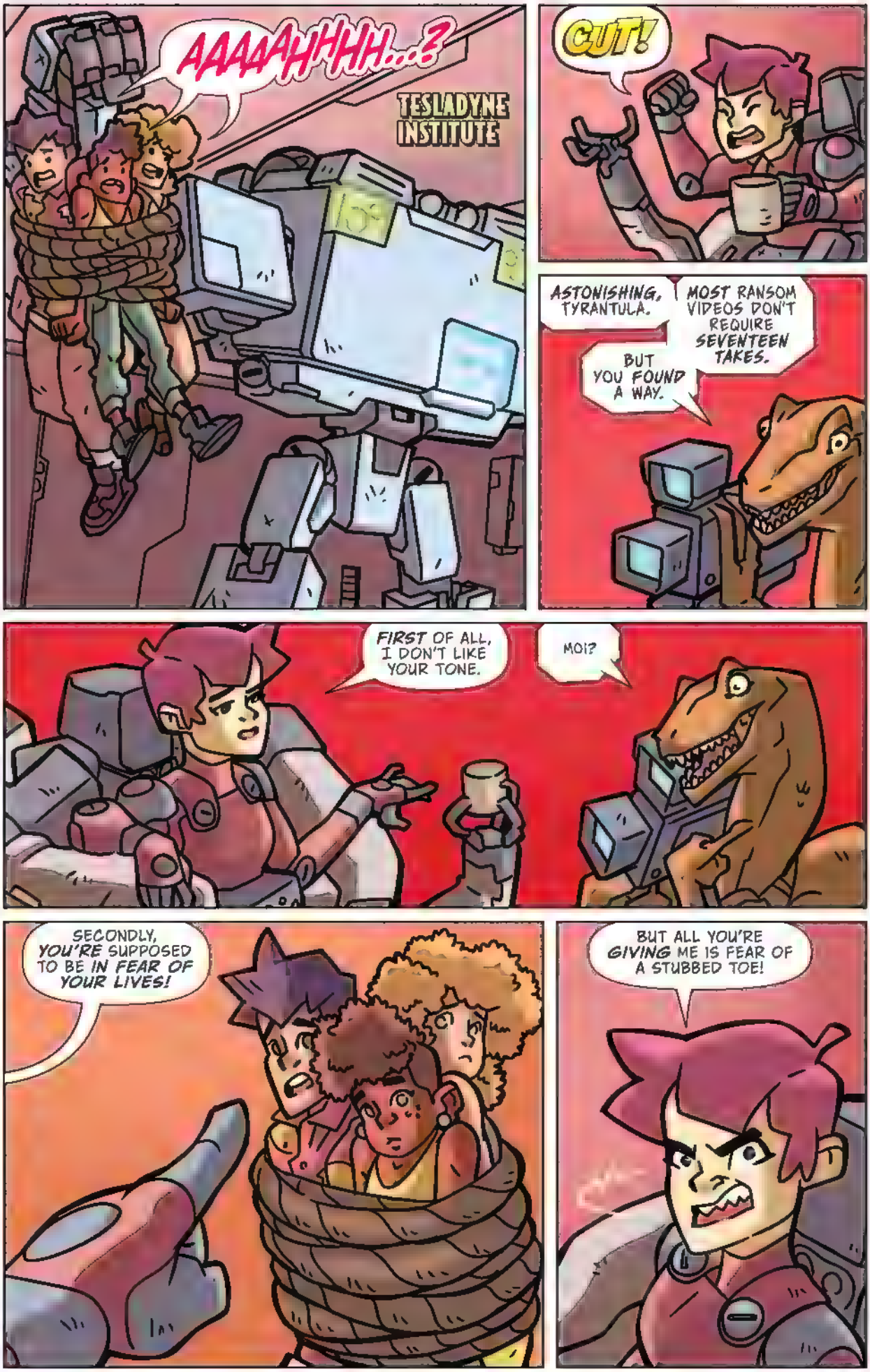
IS THIS REALLY THE BEST STRATEGY?
JUST LINING UP AND DUKING IT OUT?
YEAH, SHOULDN'T WE TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE?
THAT SURPRISE WOULD BE TOO OBVIOUS!
I PREFER THE FAR MORE SURPRISING SURPRISE WHICH IS DOUBLE CROSSING YOU.
SURPRISE!
I WAS A SECRET VILLAIN ALL ALONG!
WINK!
TO BE CONTINUED...

ATOMIC ROBO

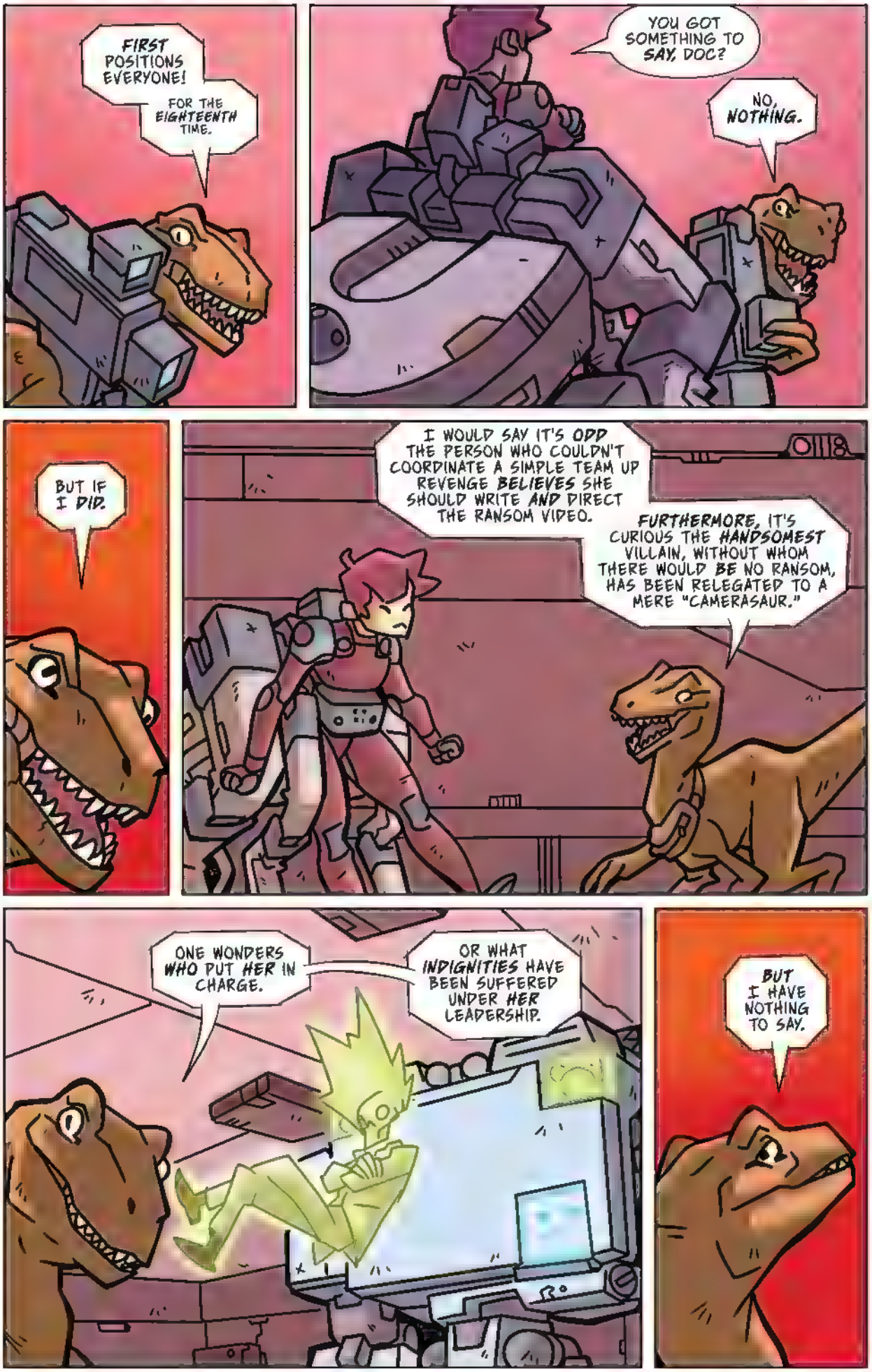
THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENCE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!

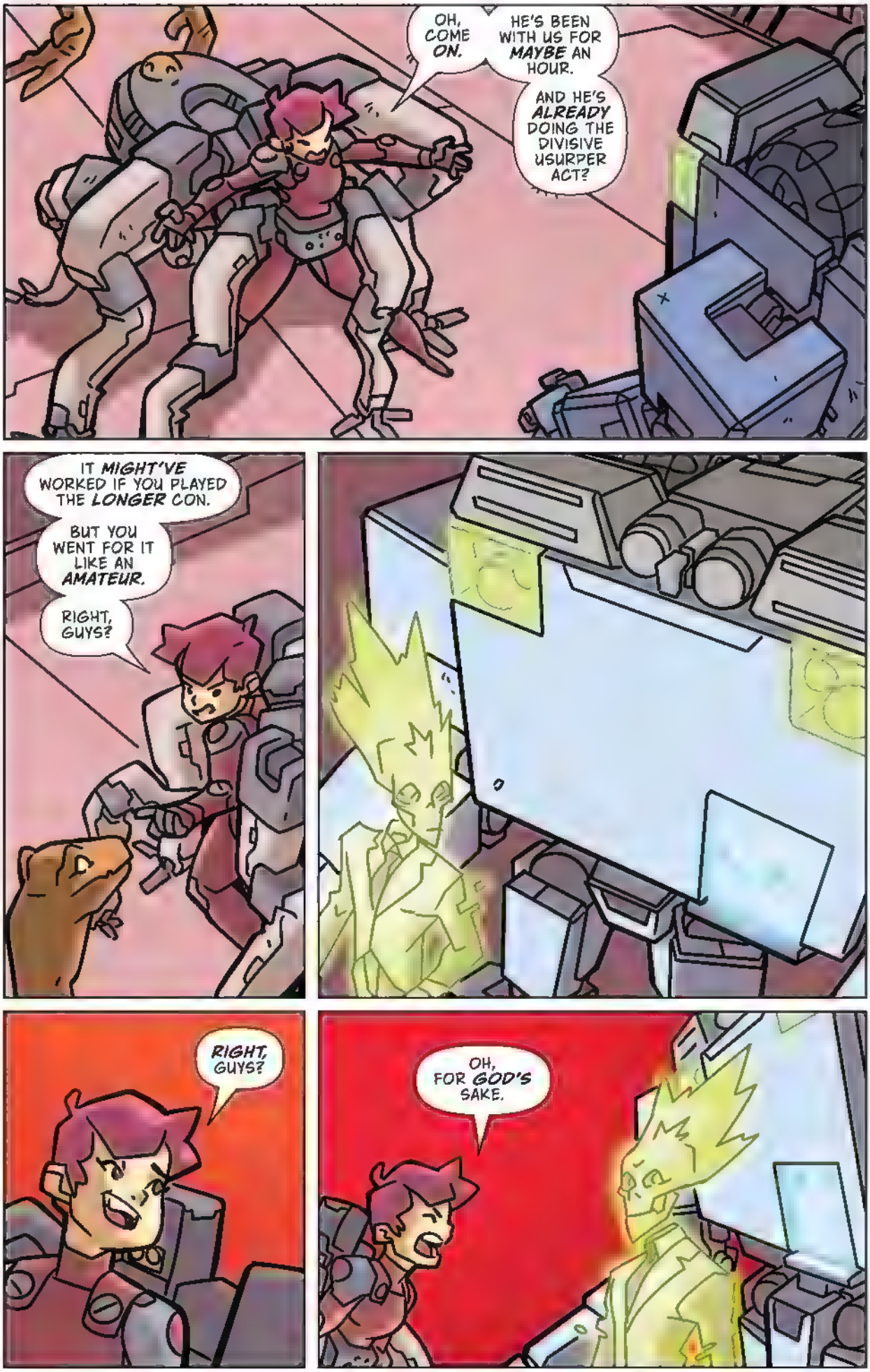


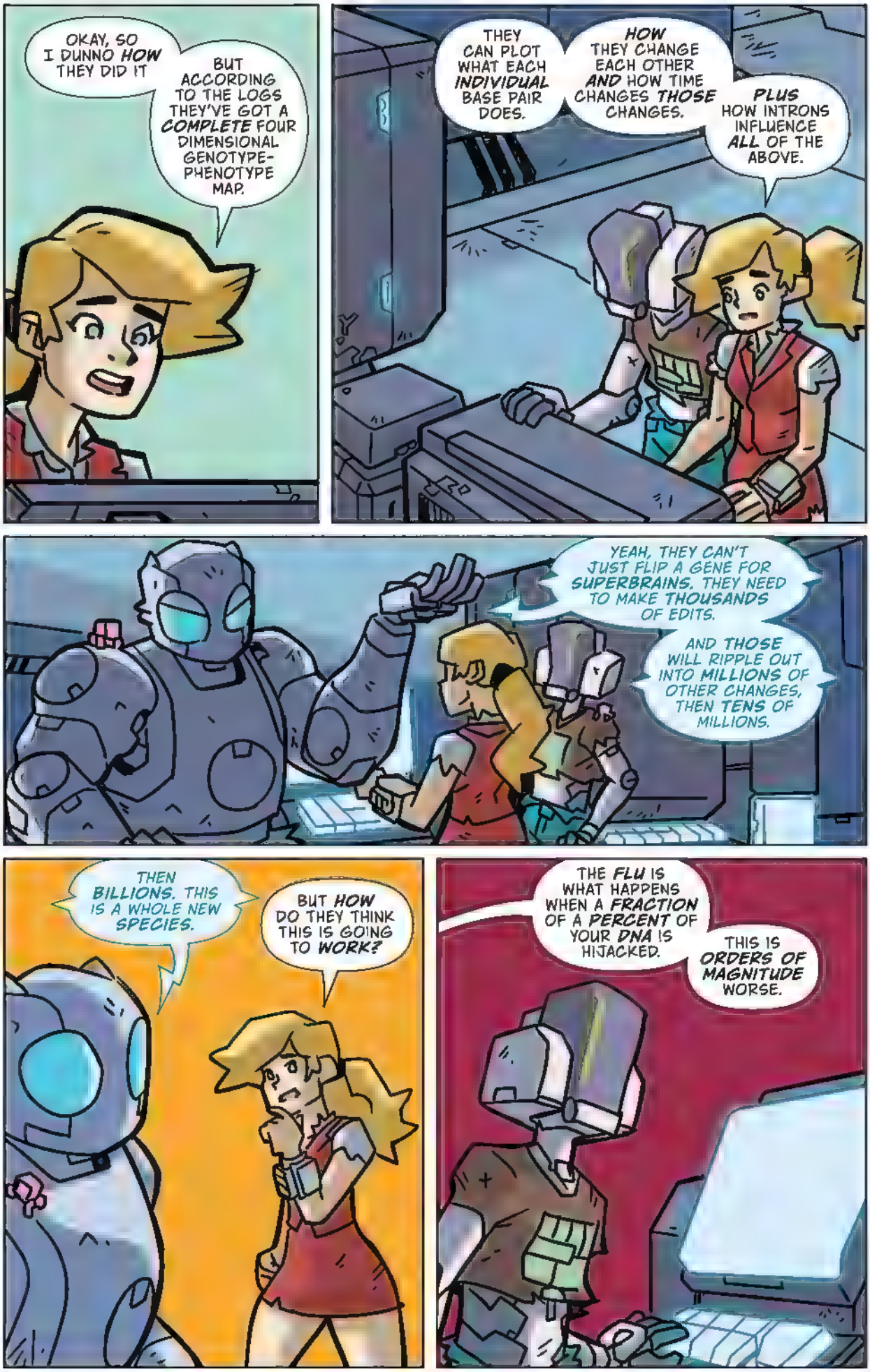

TESLADYNE ISLAND
THEY'RE GONE?
BECAUSE YOU CHASED THEM OFF.
YOU WERE OUTNUMBERED.
WHICH IS WHY I WAS TALKING THEM DOWN.
AND WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT A SECURITY DEPOSIT ANYWAY?
THAT'S THE STANDARD ACTION HERO QUIP FOR SMASHING THROUGH A WALL.
OKAY, THIS IS SERIOUS.
THERE ARE THREE MAD SCIENTISTS WITH SUPERPOWER SUITS.
AND WE HAVE TO STOP THEM FROM RECONFIGURING THE DNA OF EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH.
UH, GUYS?
MIGHT BE TOO LATE.

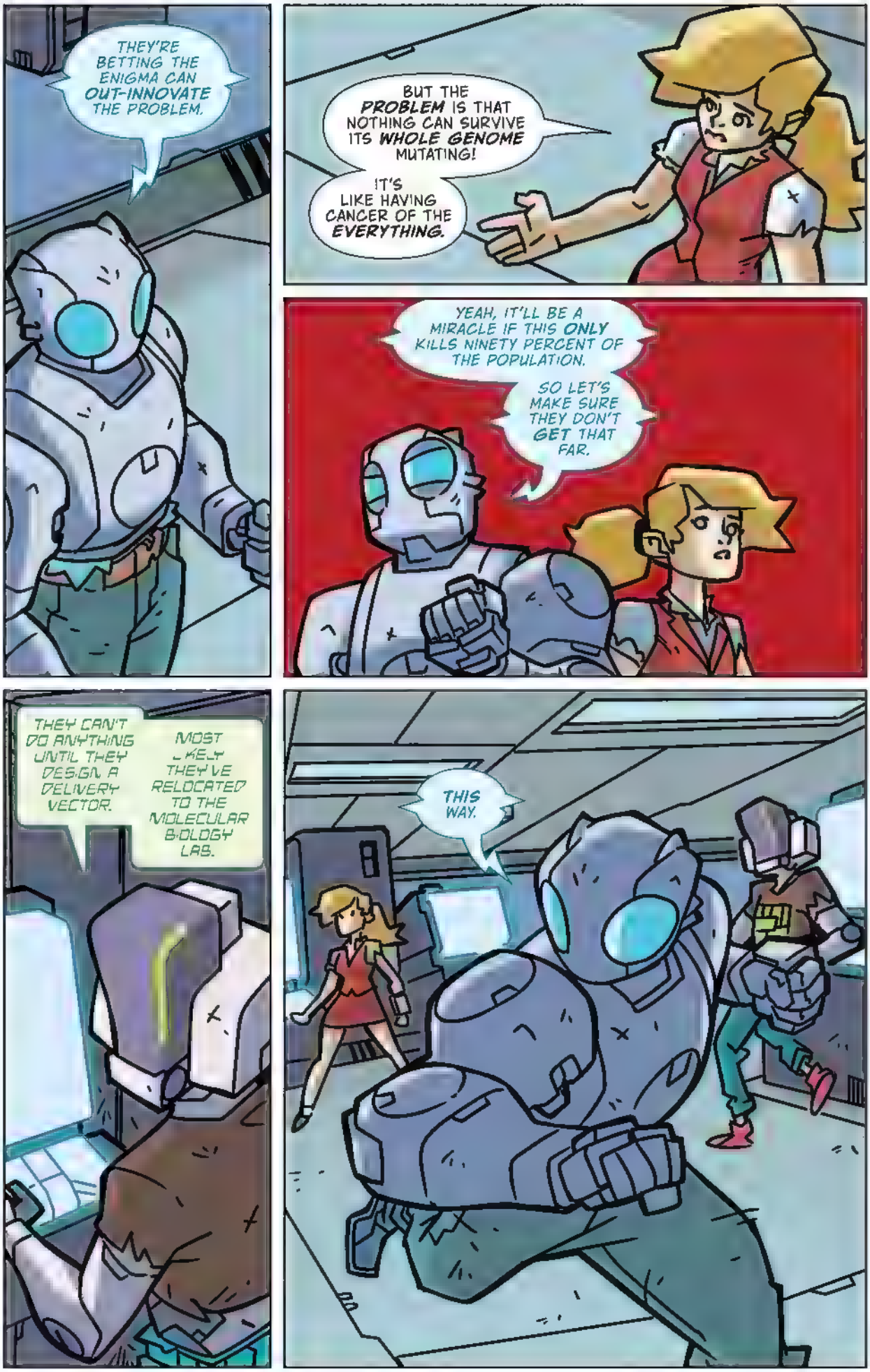

AAAAAHHHH...?
TESLADYNE INSTITUTE
CUT!
ASTONISHING, TYRANTULA.
MOST RANSOM VIDEOS DON'T REQUIRE SEVENTEEN TAKES.
BUT YOU FOUND A WAY.
FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T LIKE YOUR TONE.
MOI?
SECONDLY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN FEAR OF YOUR LIVES!
BUT ALL YOU'RE GIVING ME IS FEAR OF A STUBBED TOE!

IT'S JUST WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL US.
OKAY, THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "ACTING."
PERHAPS IT WOULD HELP IF THEY HAD A DECENT SCRIPT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?
He is criticizing the TERRBLE SCRPT you wrote
YES, THANK YOU, HELSINGARD.
LET'S JUST TAKE IT FROM THE TOP.
OKAY?


FIRST POSITIONS EVERYONE!
FOR THE EIGHTEENTH TIME.
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, DOC?
NO, NOTHING.
BUT IF I DID.
I WOULD SAY IT'S ODD THE PERSON WHO COULDN'T COORDINATE A SIMPLE TEAM UP REVENGE BELIEVES SHE SHOULD WRITE AND DIRECT THE RANSOM VIDEO.
FURTHERMORE, IT'S CURIOUS THE HANDSOMEST VILLAIN, WITHOUT WHOM THERE WOULD BE NO RANSOM, HAS BEEN RELEGATED TO A MERE "CAMERASAUR."
ONE WONDERS WHO PUT HER IN CHARGE.
OR WHAT INDIGNITIES HAVE BEEN SUFFERED UNDER HER LEADERSHIP.
BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.

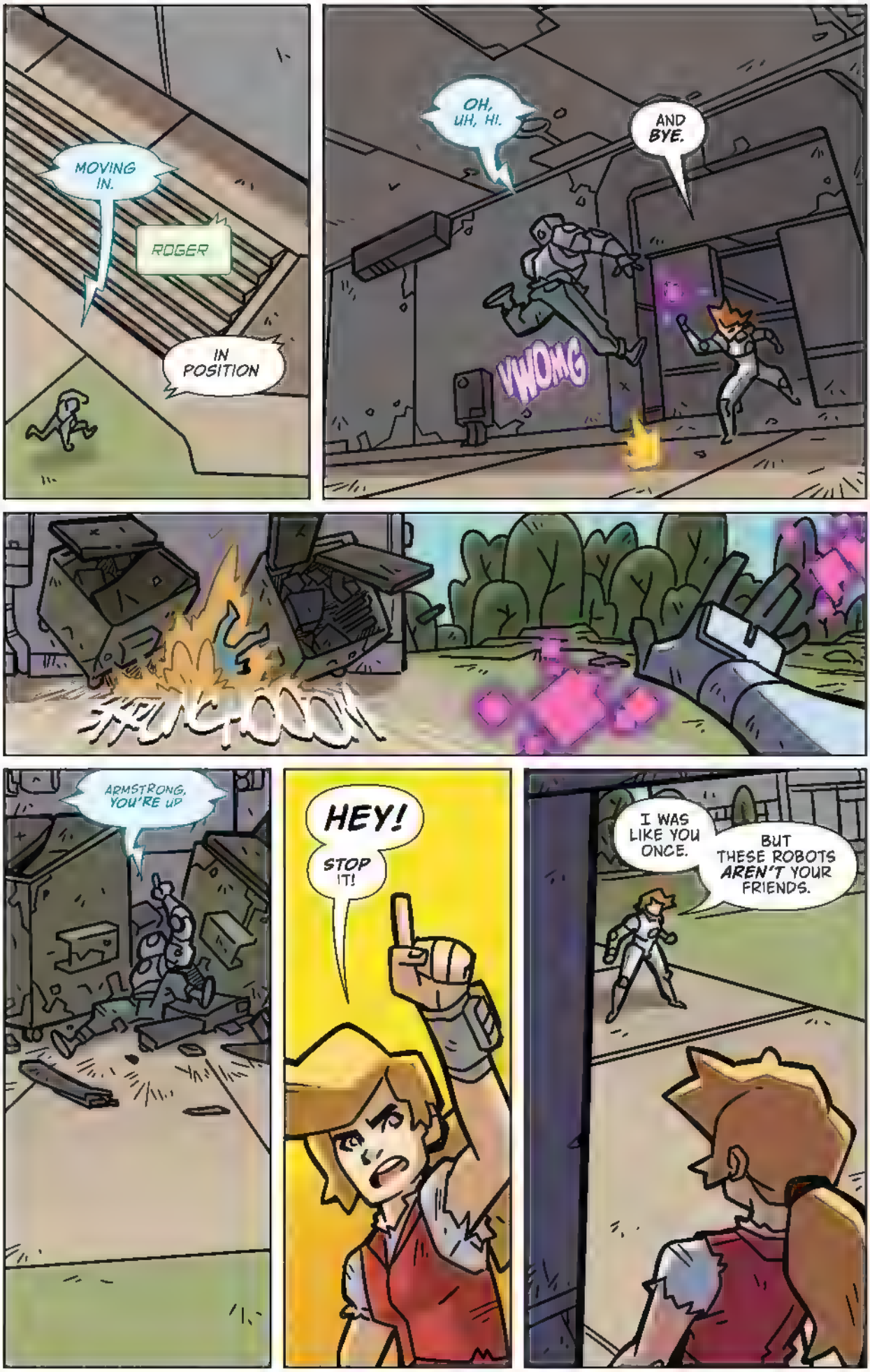

OH, COME ON.
HE'S BEEN WITH US FOR MAYBE AN HOUR.
AND HE'S ALREADY DOING THE DIVISIVE USURPER ACT?
IT MIGHT'VE WORKED IF YOU PLAYED THE LONGER CON.
BUT YOU WENT FOR IT LIKE AN AMATEUR.
RIGHT, GUYS?
RIGHT, GUYS?
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE.


OKAY, SO I DUNNO HOW THEY DID IT
BUT ACCORDING TO THE LOGS THEY'VE GOT A COMPLETE FOUR DIMENSIONAL GENOTYPE-PHENOTYPE MAP.
THEY CAN PLOT WHAT EACH INDIVIDUAL BASE PAIR DOES.
HOW THEY CHANGE EACH OTHER AND HOW TIME CHANGES THOSE CHANGES.
PLUS HOW INTRONS INFLUENCE ALL OF THE ABOVE.
YEAH, THEY CAN'T JUST FLIP A GENE FOR SUPERBRAINS. THEY NEED TO MAKE THOUSANDS OF EDITS.
AND THOSE WILL RIPPLE OUT INTO MILLIONS OF OTHER CHANGES, THEN TENS OF MILLIONS.
THEN BILLIONS. THIS IS A WHOLE NEW SPECIES.
BUT HOW DO THEY THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
THE FLU IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A FRACTION OF A PERCENT OF YOUR DNA IS HIJACKED.
THIS IS ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE WORSE.

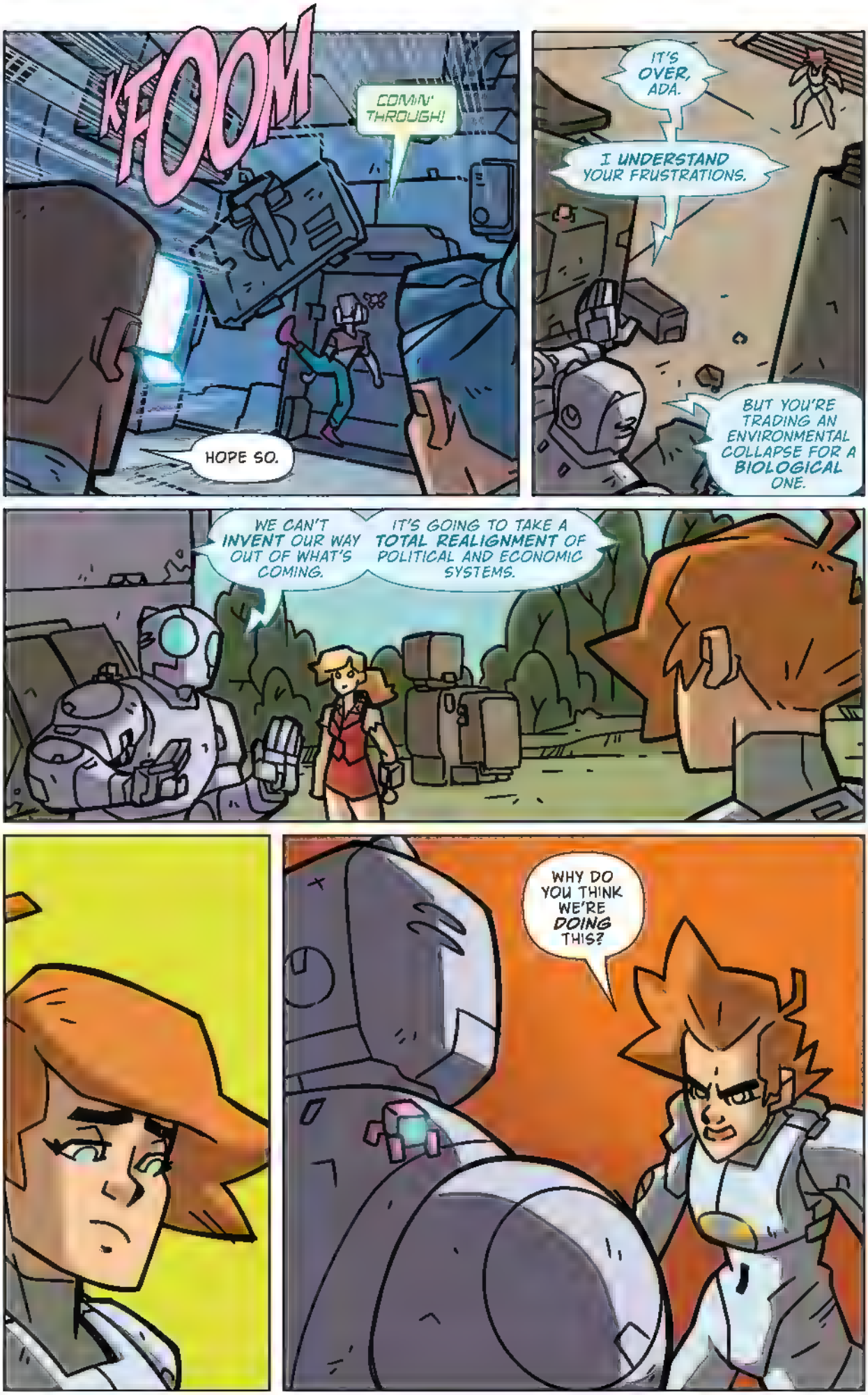

THEY'RE BETTING THE ENIGMA CAN OUT-INNOVATE THE PROBLEM.
BUT THE PROBLEM IS THAT NOTHING CAN SURVIVE ITS WHOLE GENOME MUTATING!
IT'S LIKE HAVING CANCER OF THE EVERYTHING.
YEAH, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF THIS ONLY KILLS NINETY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.
SO LET'S MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET THAT FAR.
THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL THEY DESIGN A DELIVERY VECTOR.
MOST LIKELY THEY'VE RELOCATED TO THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LAB.
THIS WAY.

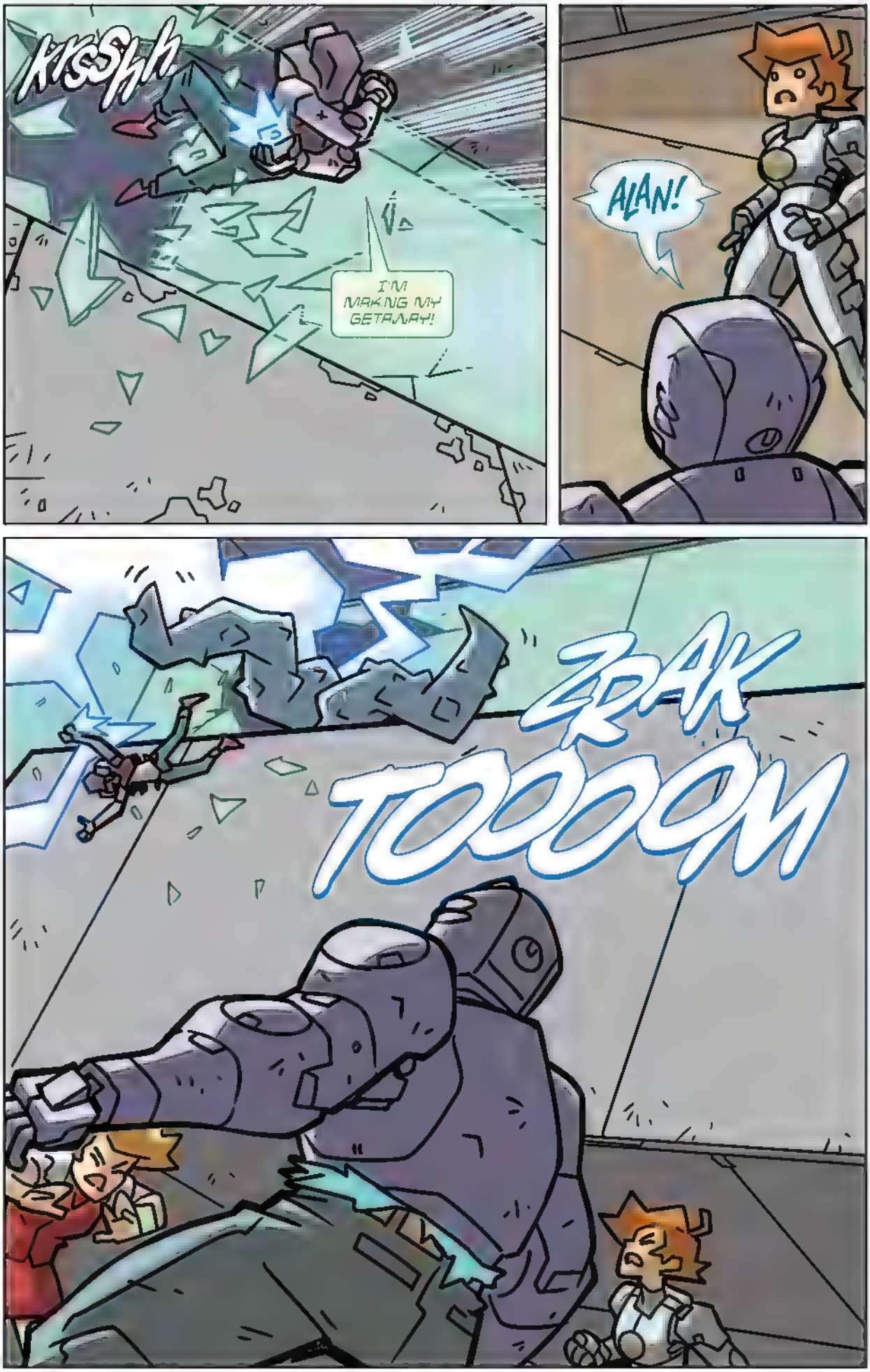
DO YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU BACK WHERE YOU WERE?
INCORPOREAL? IN NEW JERSEY!
I'M GO NG TO CUT YOU!
IN HALF!
HE SAID TO THE ROPE.
SO, NOW YOU'RE DOUBLE CROSSING THEM?
YES.
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
YES.

THERE IT IS.
WHERE ARE THEY?
I CAN DETECT THE ANT-GRAVITY FROM HERE.
POWER UP A BIOPRINTER AND SYNCH THE ENIGMA.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL HOLD THEM OFF.
THE BATTLE OF TESLADYNE
A THOUGHT OCCURS.
A BILLIONAIRE LIVES NEXT DOOR.
NO ONE HERE LIKES HIM.
IMAGINE WHAT RICHES A TERRIFYING VILLAIN TEAM UP COULD EXTRACT.


MOVING IN.
ROGER
IN POSITION
OH, UH, HI.
AND BYE.
VWOMG
KRUCKOOM
ARMSTRONG, YOU'RE UP
HEY!
STOP IT!
I WAS LIKE YOU ONCE.
BUT THESE ROBOTS AREN'T YOUR FRIENDS.

THEY'RE NOT THE ONES ENDANGERING ALL OF HUMANKIND.
NO?
YOU SHOULD REALLY LOOK AT ALAN'S FILE.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
SPEAKING OF, WHERE IS THE--
TYPICAL!
SMITHFIELD, KOA!
IT'S COMING YOUR WAY!
READY?


KFOOM
COMIN' THROUGH!
HOPE SO.
IT'S OVER, ADA.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATIONS.
BUT YOU'RE TRADING AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE FOR A BIOLOGICAL ONE.
WE CAN'T INVENT OUR WAY OUT OF WHAT'S COMING.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE A TOTAL REALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.
WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE DOING THIS?

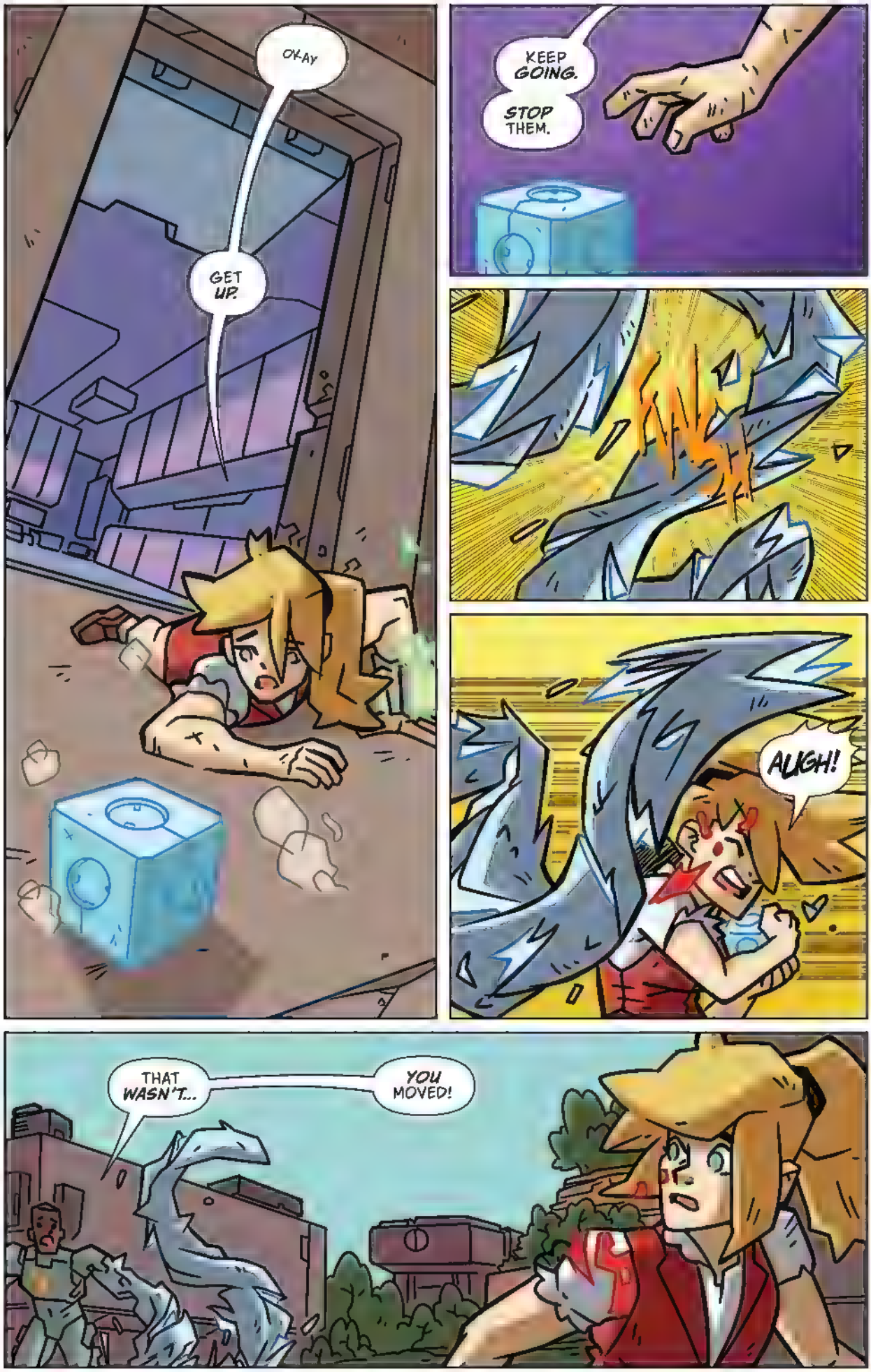

KSSHH
I'M MAKING MY GETAWAY!
ALAN!
ZRAK
TOOOOM

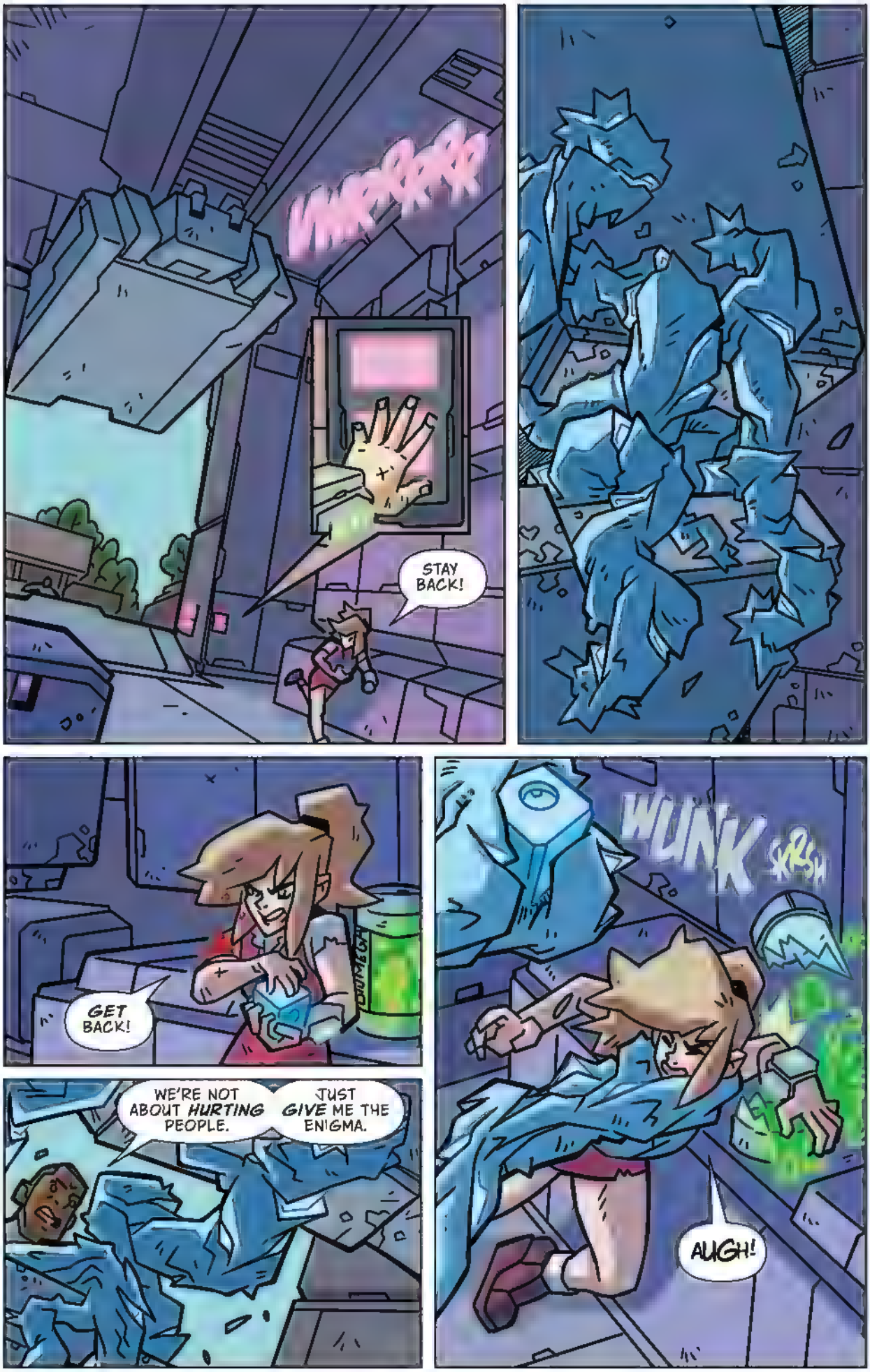
GOT T
VWROP
ZZKRAKZOW
KWOOMP

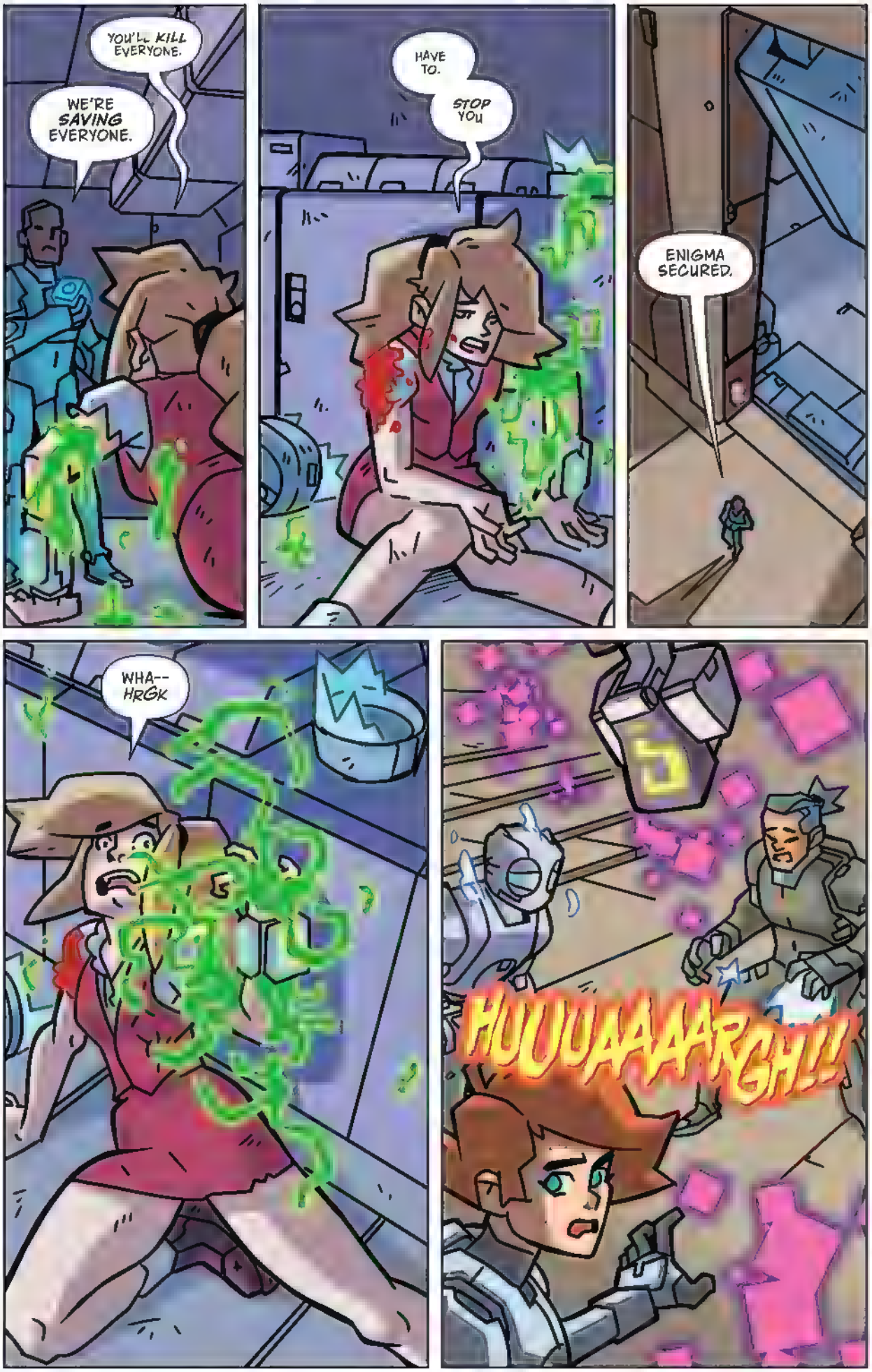
HUP!
GOTCHA.
VVWOMMM
YOU CAN'T STOP US.
THWAP!
SOMEONE HAS TO.
VWOMP
dou dou DWEEEEEE
?!

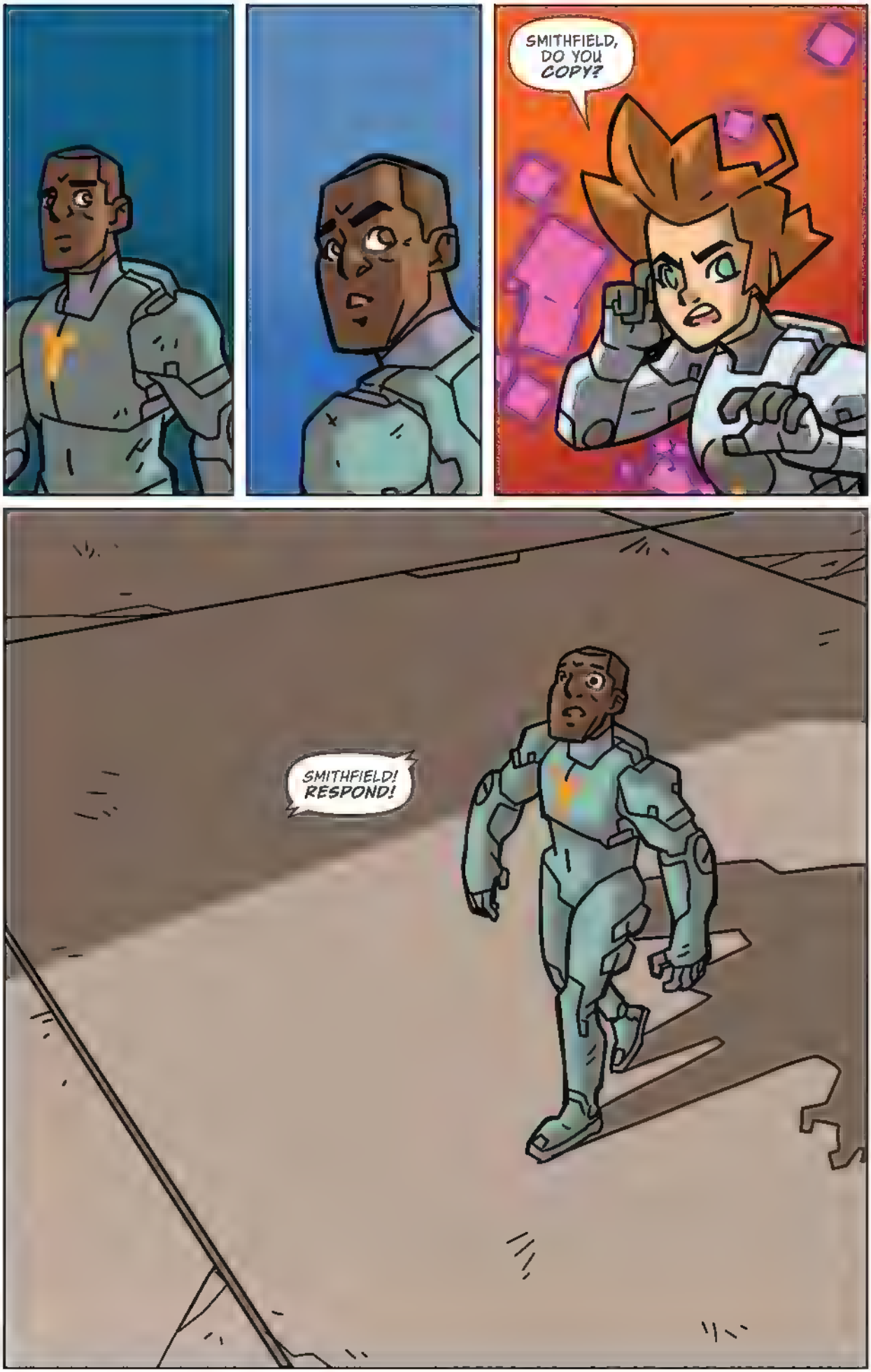
NO!
WHAT?
THIS THING REPELS ENERGY.
GUESS ANTI-GRAVITY COUNTS?
YOU SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH OF A CHARGE TO BREAK YOUR FALL.
"SHOULD?!"
ZZZAPZZZ
AUGH!

ROBO!
WOOOM
WHERE'S THE ENIGMA?
THAT WOMAN HAS IT!
NOT FOR LONG.
YOU TWO KEEP OUR GUESTS ENTERTAINED.
I'LL TRACK HER DOWN.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
ZZKZAPK
C'MON!


OKAY
GET UP.
KEEP GOING.
STOP THEM.
AUGH!
THAT WASN'T...
YOU MOVED!


STAY BACK!
GET BACK!
WE'RE NOT ABOUT *HURTING* PEOPLE.
JUST *GIVE* ME THE ENIGMA.
WUNK
AUGH!


YOU'LL KILL EVERYONE.
WE'RE SAVING EVERYONE.
HAVE TO.
STOP YOU
ENIGMA SECURED.
WHA--
HRGK
HUUUAAAARGH!!

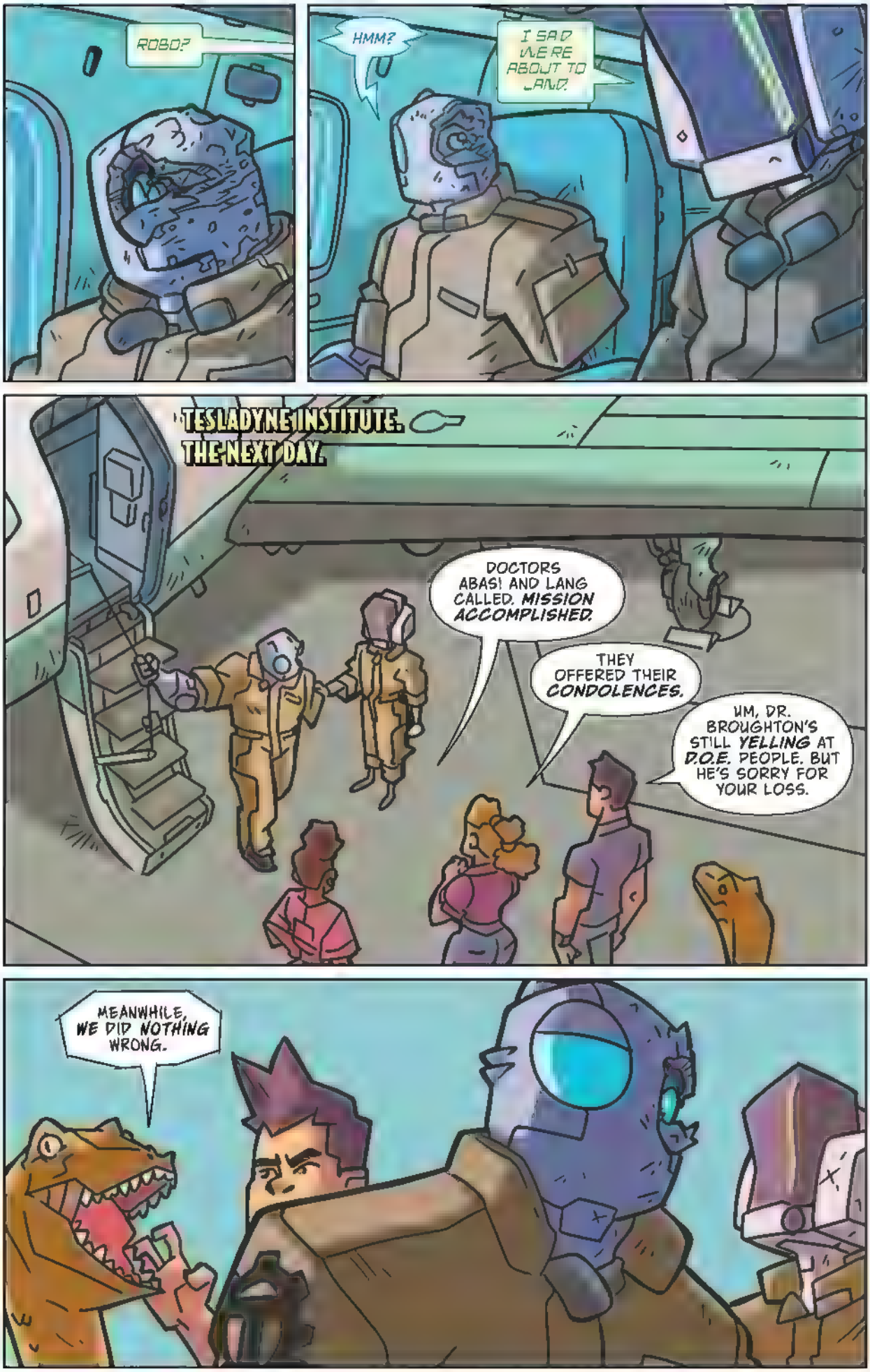

SMITHFIELD, DO YOU COPY?
SMITHFIELD! RESPOND!

HRUFF
ADA?
WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
TO BE CONCLUDED...

ATOMIC ROBO

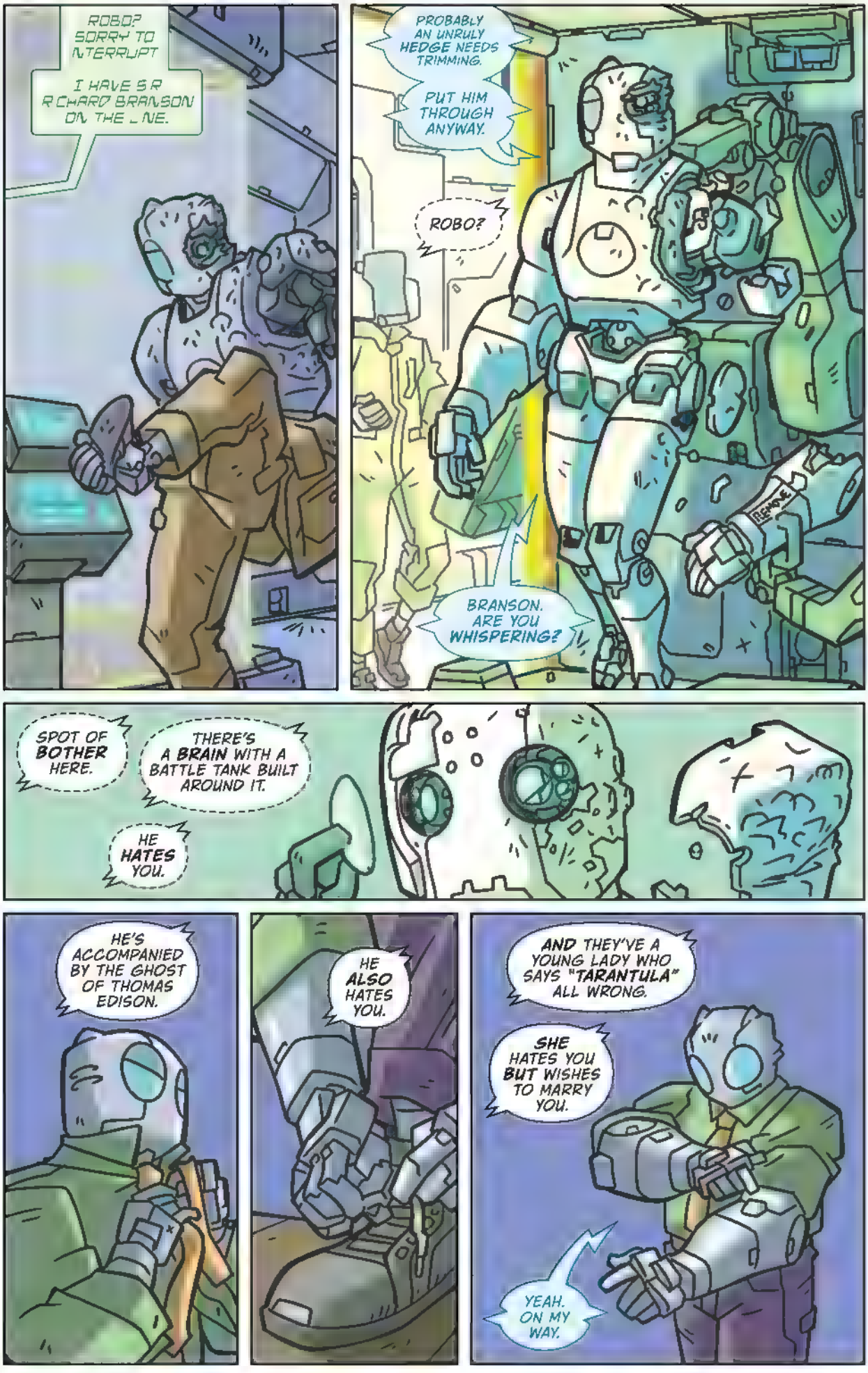
THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENCE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!

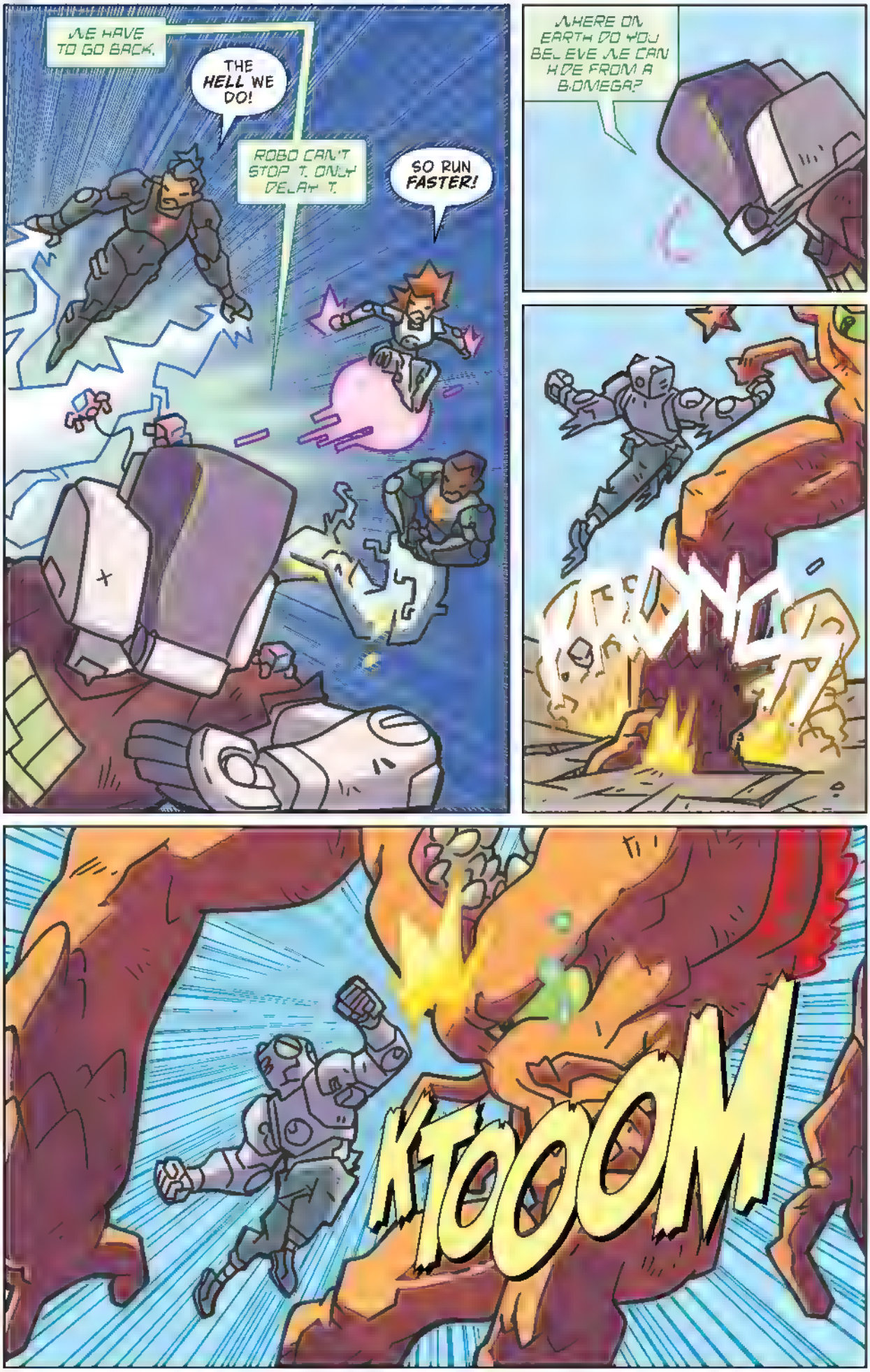
SMITHFIELD, SAY AGAIN!
TESLADYNE ISLAND.
INCOMING!
"ROBO?"


ROBO?
HMM?
I SAID WE'RE ABOUT TO LAND.
TESLADYNE INSTITUTE. THE NEXT DAY.
DOCTORS ABASI AND LANG CALLED. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
THEY OFFERED THEIR CONDOLENCES.
UM, DR. BROUGHTON'S STILL YELLING AT D.O.E. PEOPLE. BUT HE'S SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
MEANWHILE, WE DID NOTHING WRONG.

OH, UH.
PROFESSOR FOLEY HOPPED A PLANE BACK AS SOON AS YOU CONTACTED CERES.
SHE SHOULD BE BACK TONIGHT.
THAT'S FINE.
I NEED TO HIT THE REPAIR BAY.
SURE, ROBO.
OF COURSE.

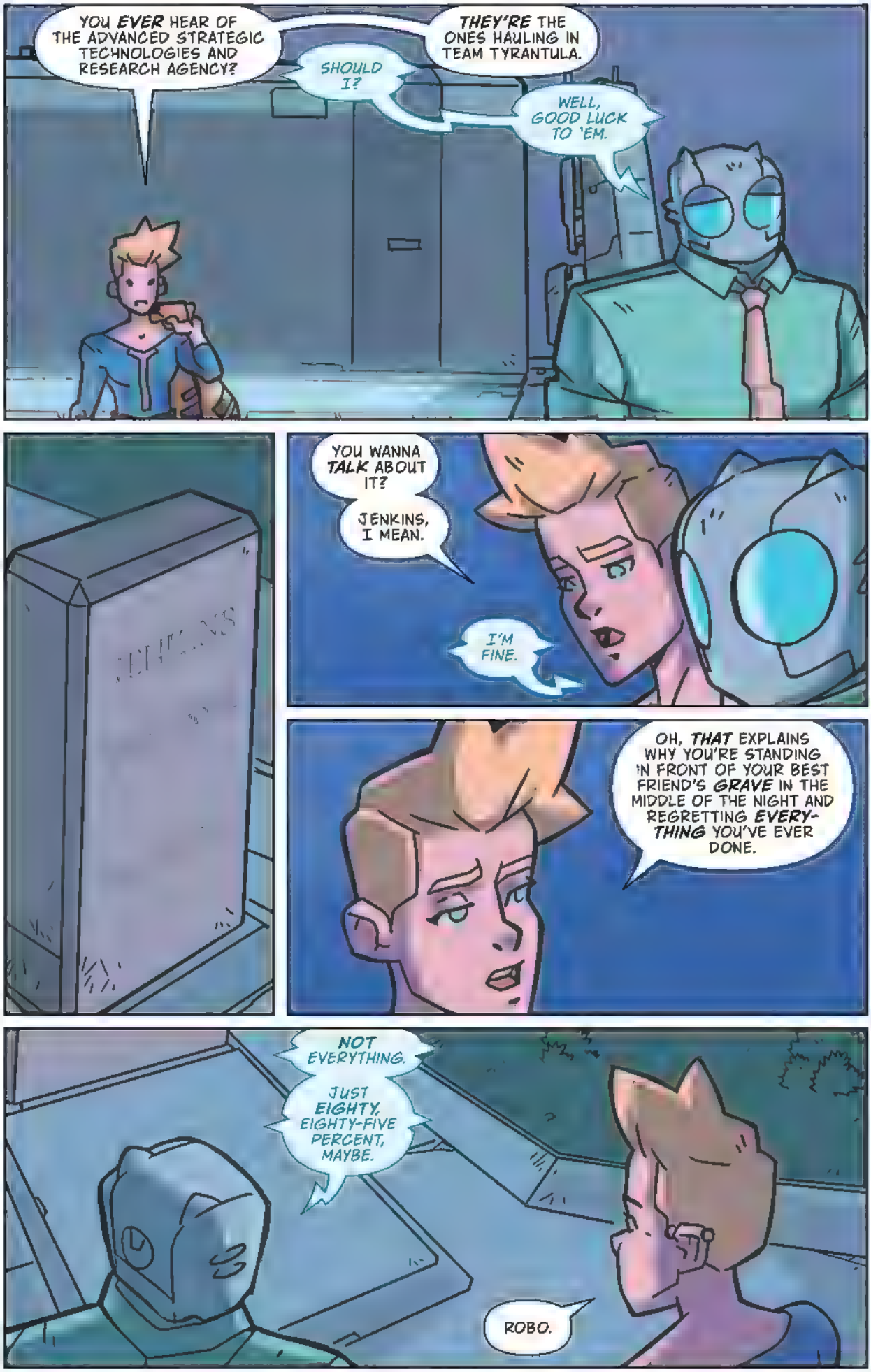
ALAN!
GET EVERYONE TO THE BOATS.
NORTHSIDE!
KCHOOOM
BJT, ROBO--!
I'LL BUY YOU TIME!
GO!


ROBO? SORRY TO NTERRUPT
I HAVE S R R CHARD BRANSON ON THE _NE.
PROBABLY AN UNRULY HEDGE NEEDS TRIMMING.
PUT HIM THROUGH ANYWAY.
ROBO?
BRANSON. ARE YOU WHISPERING?
SPOT OF BOTHER HERE.
THERE'S A BRAIN WITH A BATTLE TANK BUILT AROUND IT.
HE HATES YOU.
HE'S ACCOMPANIED BY THE GHOST OF THOMAS EDISON.
HE ALSO HATES YOU.
AND THEY'VE A YOUNG LADY WHO SAYS "TARANTULA" ALL WRONG.
SHE HATES YOU BUT WISHES TO MARRY YOU.
YEAH. ON MY WAY.


WE HAVE TO GO BACK.
THE HELL WE DO!
ROBO CAN'T STOP T. ONLY DELAY T.
SO RUN FASTER!
WHERE ON EARTH DO YOU BELIEVE WE CAN HIDE FROM A BIOMEGA?
KRUNCH
KTOOOM

KRASH
BWAARGH!
BWORMP
HELSIE!
Robo!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND "PIP PIP CHEERIO" HERE GETS IT!
SPSHHH
BRAINZ
DOINK

THAT ALL Y'GOT?!
KRONCHOOM
GUESS NOT
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
ALAN?
RUN.


YOU EVER HEAR OF THE ADVANCED STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES AND RESEARCH AGENCY?
SHOULD I?
THEY'RE THE ONES HAULING IN TEAM TYRANTULA.
WELL, GOOD LUCK TO 'EM.
YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?
JENKINS, I MEAN.
I'M FINE.
OH, THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF YOUR BEST FRIEND'S GRAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND REGRETTING EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DONE.
NOT EVERYTHING.
JUST EIGHTY, EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT, MAYBE.
ROBO.

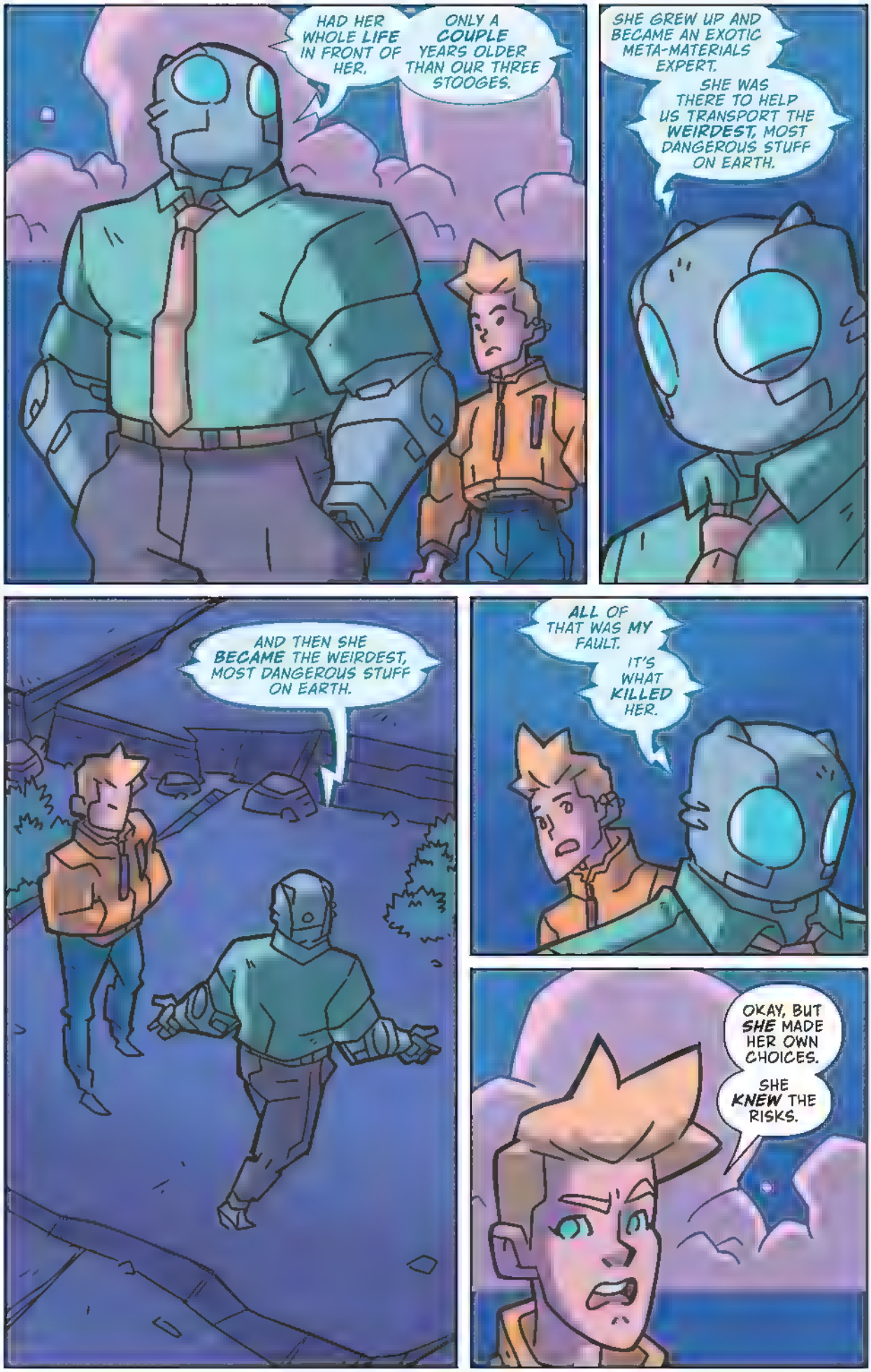
OH, GOSH.
GHOOM
I TOLD YOU TO GO!
YES BUT THAT WAS BEFORE YOU KNEW ABOUT OUR TERRIBLE PLAN.

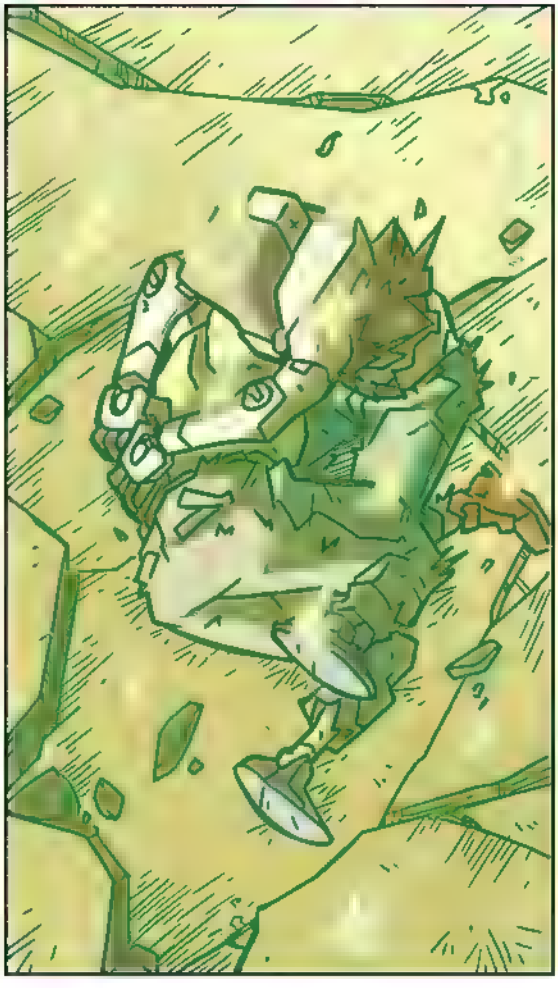
DO YOU RECALL MY QUANTUM ELECTRON GUN?
I RECALL IT EXPLODED.
WELL, WE'RE DOING THAT AT THE ENIGMA.
FTHWOOM
TERRIBLE IDEA. WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?
WE ARE TO OCCUPY THE MONSTER..
"..WHILE THEY OVERLOAD THE ENIGMA."
ZKAAARZZZZ
C'MON.

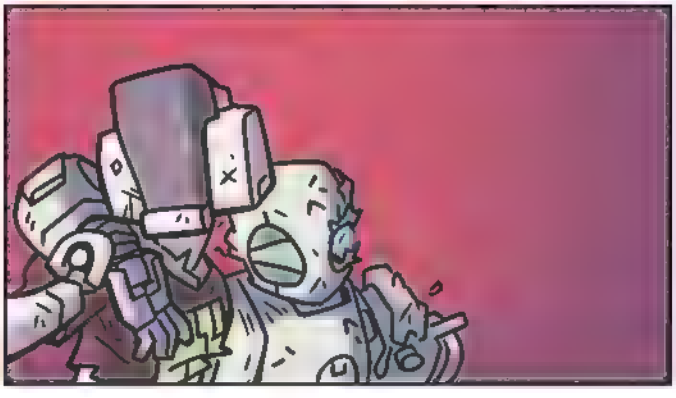
ZKAAARZZZ
CAN'T HOLD
NEARLY THERE!
LOOK OUT!
THEY ALWAYS HAVE ENERGY BREATH!
RUN, BEFORE IT FIRES AGAIN!

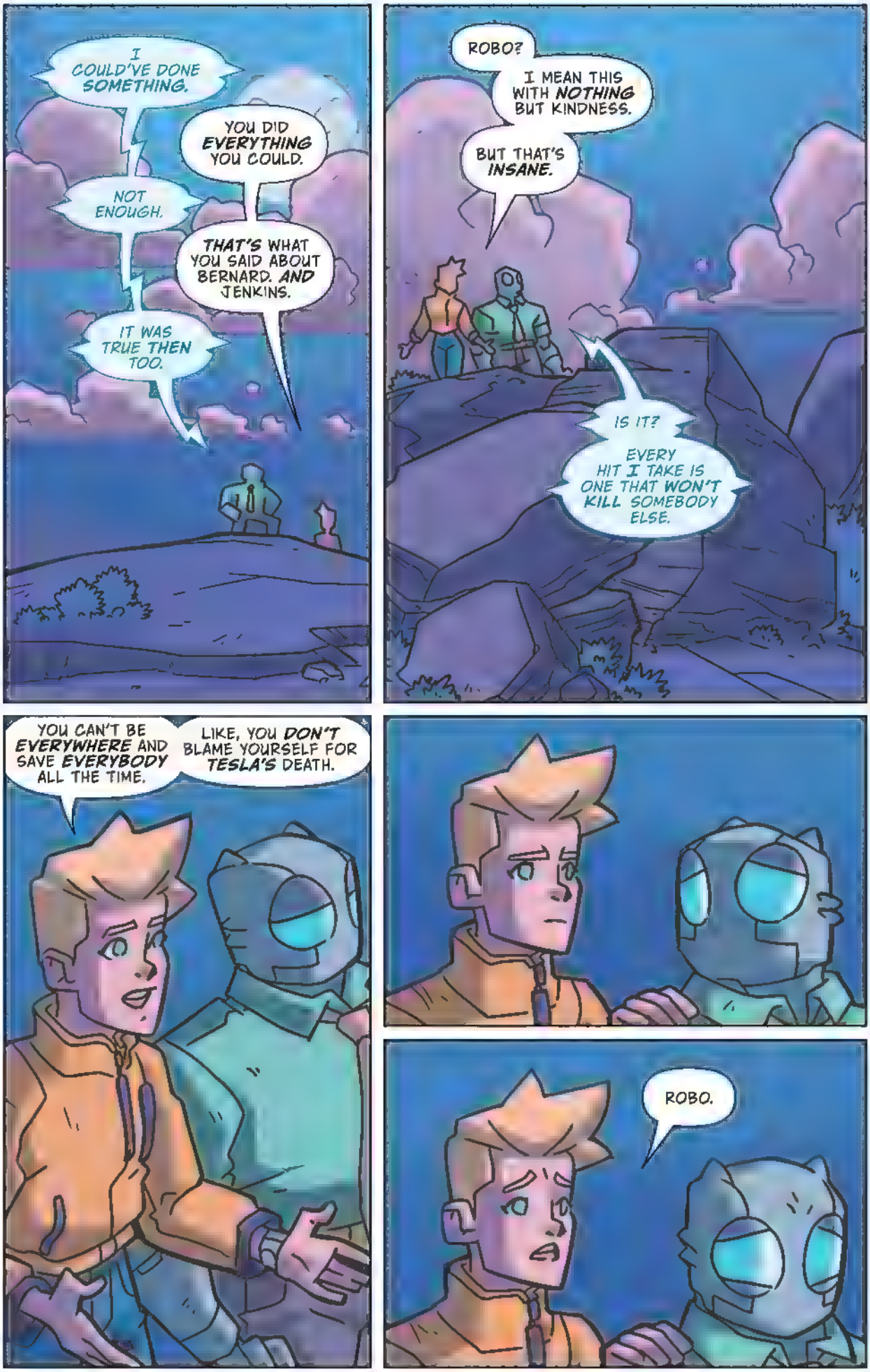
EMMA WAS SUCH A BRIGHT KID.
AND BRAVE.
STOOD UP TO DR. DINOSAUR LIKE HE WAS A JOKE.
HE IS A JOKE.
OKAY, YEAH.
BUT SHE WAS JUST A KID AND HE HAD UZIS AT THE TIME
FOLEY, AM I A THREAT TO THE WORLD?
WHERE'S THAT COMING FROM?
EMMA'S DEAD BECAUSE OF ME
AND SHE'S FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE.

ROBO?!
GO LIMP!
THAT'S IT, FIRE!
KOOOM!

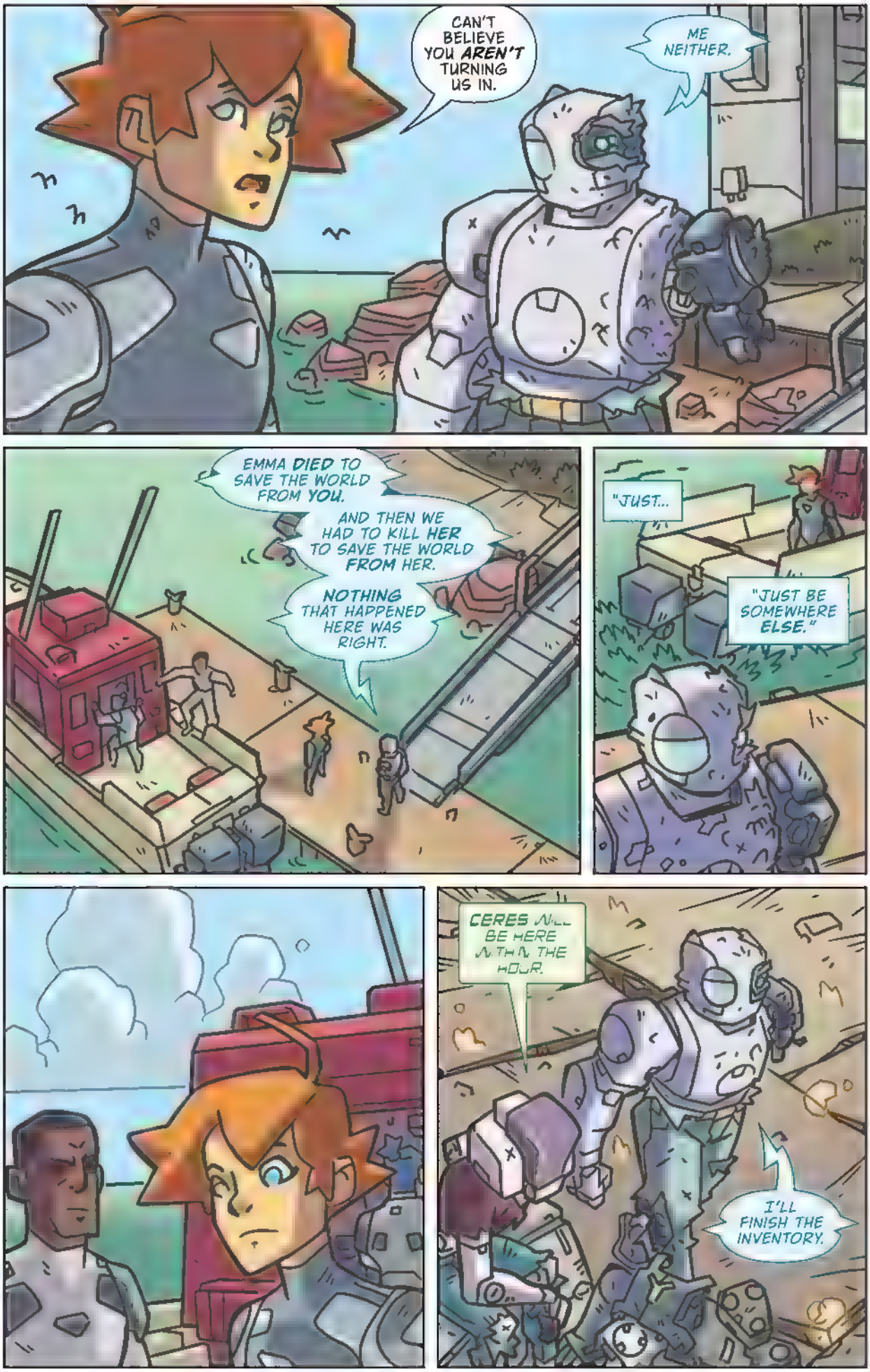

HAD HER WHOLE LIFE IN FRONT OF HER.
ONLY A COUPLE YEARS OLDER THAN OUR THREE STOOGES.
SHE GREW UP AND BECAME AN EXOTIC META-MATERIALS EXPERT.
SHE WAS THERE TO HELP US TRANSPORT THE WEIRDEST, MOST DANGEROUS STUFF ON EARTH.
AND THEN SHE BECAME THE WEIRDEST, MOST DANGEROUS STUFF ON EARTH.
ALL OF THAT WAS MY FAULT.
IT'S WHAT KILLED HER.
OKAY, BUT SHE MADE HER OWN CHOICES.
SHE KNEW THE RISKS.

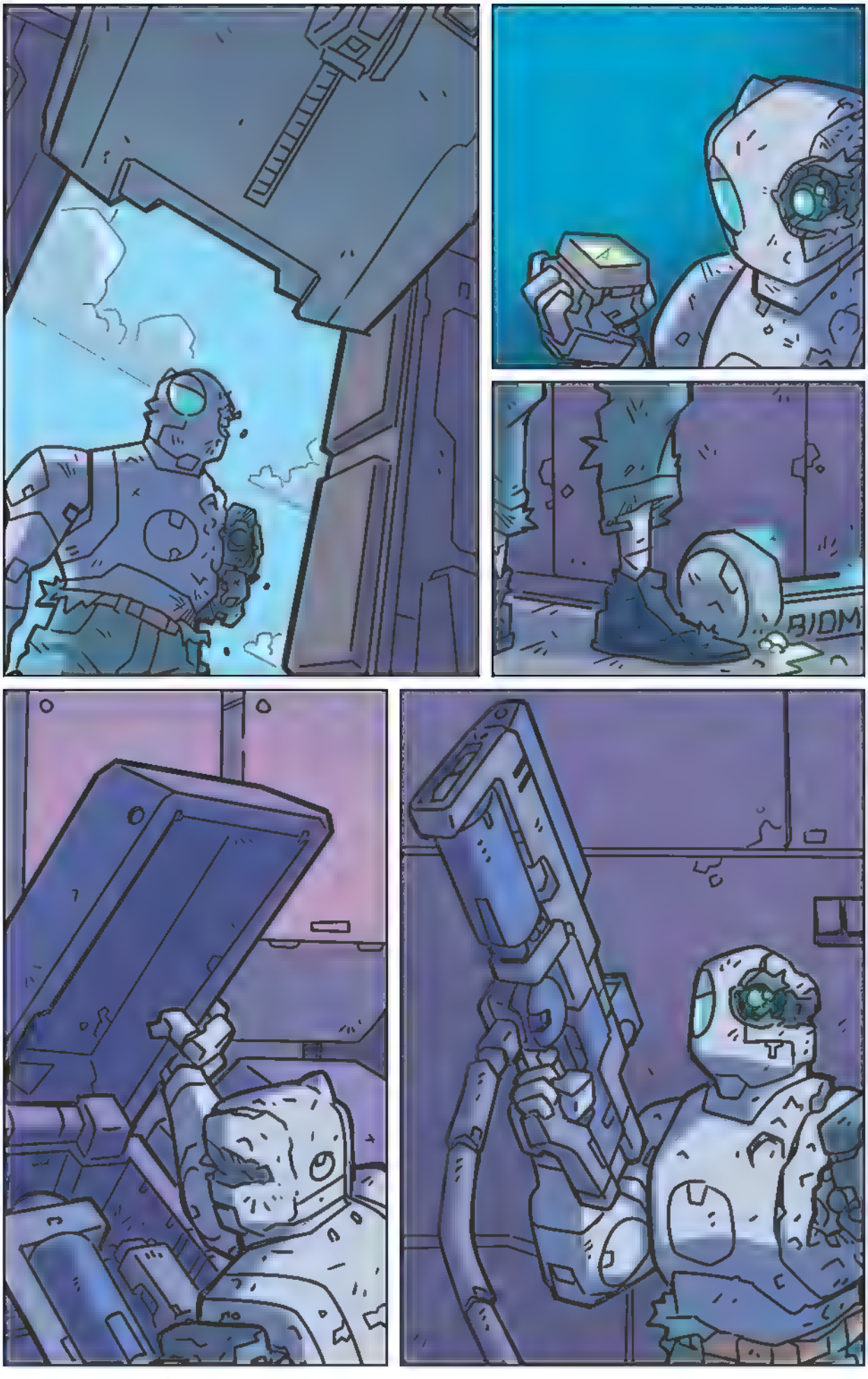


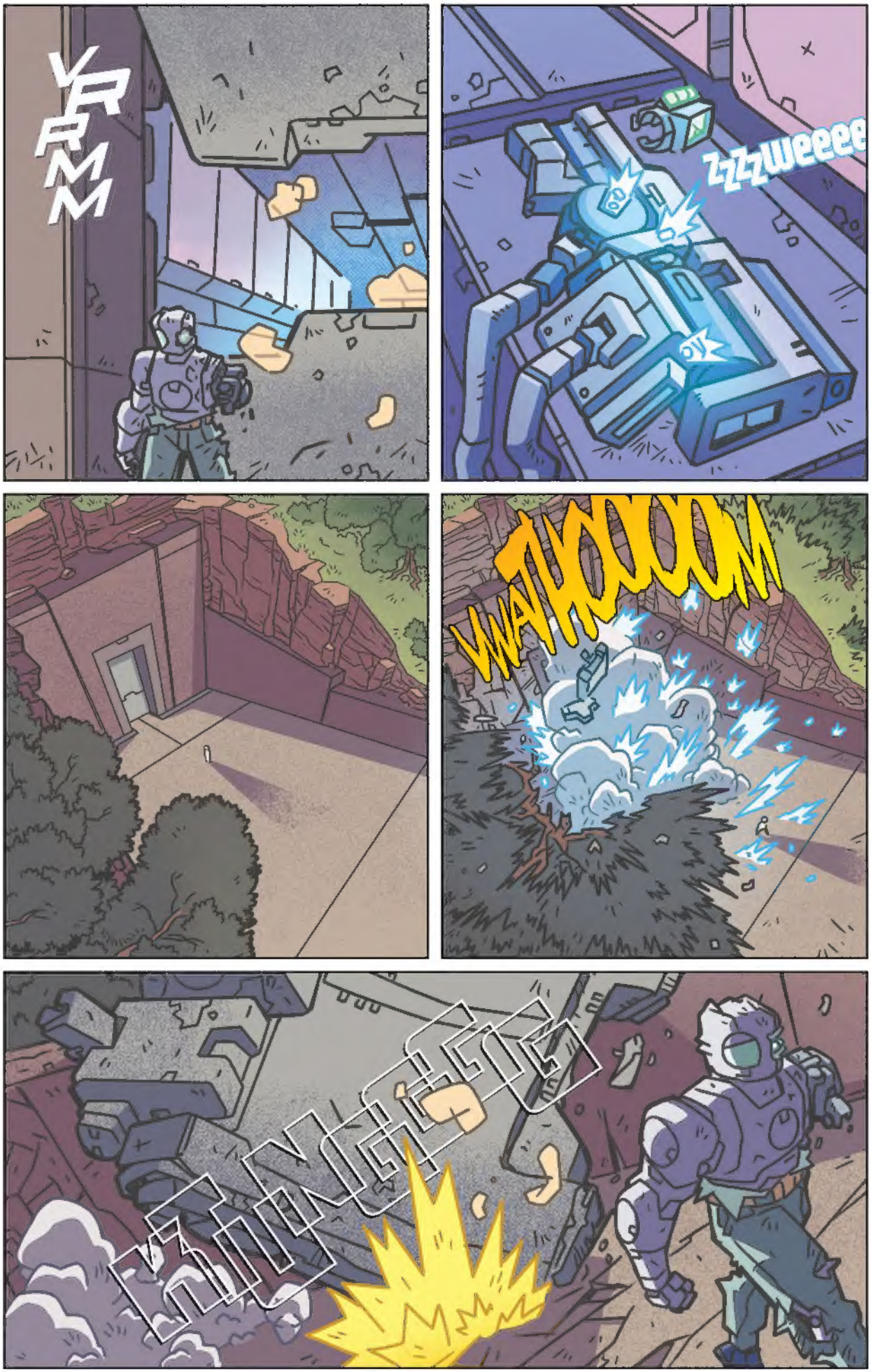


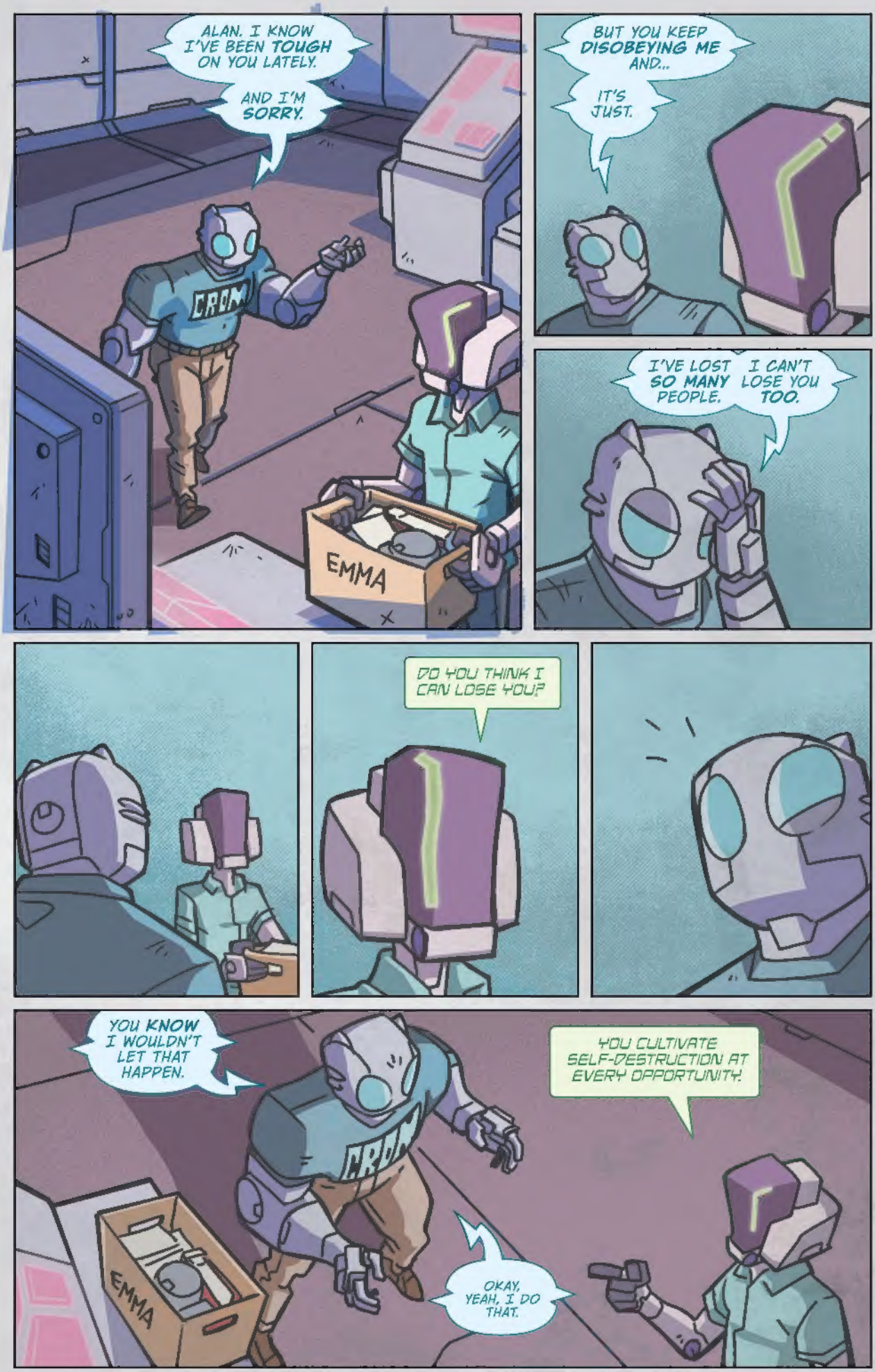

I COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING.
YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD.
NOT ENOUGH.
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT BERNARD. AND JENKINS.
IT WAS TRUE THEN TOO.
ROBO?
I MEAN THIS WITH NOTHING BUT KINDNESS.
BUT THAT'S INSANE.
IS IT?
EVERY HIT I TAKE IS ONE THAT WON'T KILL SOMEBODY ELSE.
YOU CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AND SAVE EVERYBODY ALL THE TIME.
LIKE, YOU DON'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR TESLA'S DEATH.
ROBO.

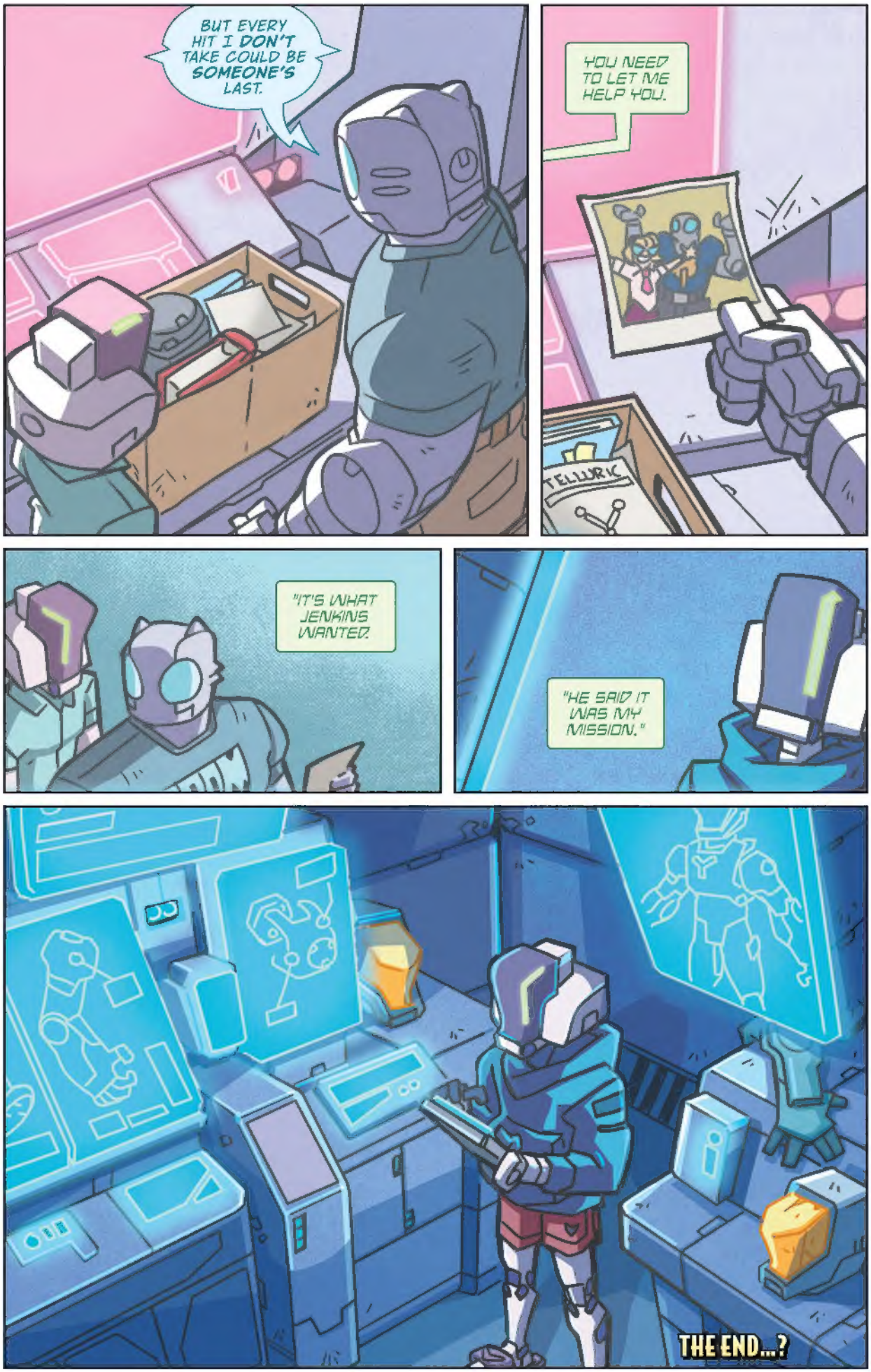
I SAID YOU DON'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR TESLA'S DEATH.
OF COURSE I DO.
ROBO!
WHAT!
IF I HAD BEEN THERE, I--
ROBO!
HAVE YOU HATED YOURSELF FOR A HUNDRED YEARS?
WELL, SURE, IT SOUNDS CRAZY WHEN YOU SAY IT.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THEY'RE DEAD.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU'RE ALIVE.
THIS IS SURVIVOR'S GUILT.
AND I THINK YOU NEED THERAPY.


CAN'T BELIEVE YOU AREN'T TURNING US IN.
ME NEITHER.
EMMA DIED TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM YOU.
AND THEN WE HAD TO KILL HER TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM HER.
NOTHING THAT HAPPENED HERE WAS RIGHT.
"JUST...
"JUST BE SOMEWHERE ELSE."
CERES WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR.
I'LL FINISH THE INVENTORY.


BIOM


VRRMM
ZzzzweeeeE
WAHOOOOM
BANG


ALAN. I KNOW I'VE BEEN TOUGH ON YOU LATELY.
AND I'M SORRY.
CROM
EMMA
BUT YOU KEEP DISOBEYING ME AND...
IT'S JUST.
I'VE LOST SO MANY PEOPLE.
I CAN'T LOSE YOU TOO.
DO YOU THINK I CAN LOSE YOU?
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
YOU CULTIVATE SELF-DESTRUCTION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
OKAY, YEAH, I DO THAT.
CROM
EMMA


BUT EVERY HIT I DON'T TAKE COULD BE SOMEONE'S LAST.
YOU NEED TO LET ME HELP YOU.
TELLURIC
"IT'S WHAT JENKINS WANTED.
"HE SAID IT WAS MY MISSION."
THE END...?